

Pirate broadcasts close Tel Aviv airport

TEL AVIV (AP) — Flight controllers shut down Ben Gurion international airport for more than three hours Monday to protest interruptions of tower communications by pirate radio broadcasts. The decision to close the airport came after two planes had trouble landing Monday morning because of the pirate broadcasts, airport authority director Moshe Debi said. A French passenger plane was forced to switch to an international emergency channel in order to land when a Hebrew song suddenly came on the radio frequency, an air controller said. The controller said a Russian cargo plane also had difficulty landing because the pilot could barely communicate with the control tower. "The flight controller felt they were losing their ability to secure the safety of airplanes and passengers," Debi said. Planes were asked to circle over the Tel Aviv area until it was possible to land. Five flights were stopped from taking off and some 1,500 passengers crowded the airport terminal. The communications ministry and police raided two pirate stations that were interfering with airport communications and at about 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) Debi announced that planes would be able to start taking off again.

Jordan Times

Am independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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U.N. and Iraq sign oil-for-food accord

Deal signals alleviation of suffering of Iraqi people; currency rises dramatically

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations and Iraq on Monday signed an agreement enabling Baghdad to resume oil exports for the first time in almost six years to buy much-needed food and medicine for sanctions-hit Iraqis.

The 51-paragraph Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by chief U.N. negotiator Hans Corell and his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Amir Al Anbari, ending three-and-a-half months of arduous negotiations which maintained suspense right to the last moment.

Oil prices, which dipped sharply following Monday's announcement, stabilised during the day as traders said that prices had taken into account a possible accord in the last few days.

Iraq's return to the oil market was expected to take between two and four months, while implementation details mentioned in the MoU and its two annexes are sorted out.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Gbali, a key player

in the negotiations, said the agreement marked "a success for the Security Council" which worked out the framework for the deal in Resolution 986, adopted in April last year.

Security Council President Qin Huanon of China said the council hoped the signing would "alleviate the humanitarian sufferings of the Iraqi people."

The U.S. and British ambassadors here, who had successfully fought for amendments in the agreement to prevent Iraq from "manipulating" the resolution, hailed the deal but stressed that sanctions against Baghdad would remain in force.

U.S. ambassador Madeleine Albright told reporters that Monday's agreement was a "great victory, first of all for the Iraqi people who have been suffering so unjustly from (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein's distorted priorities."

The Security Council adopted the resolution in April last year amid mount-

Jordan, Arab League welcome agreement

JORDAN WELCOMED Monday the conclusion of the deal between Iraq and the United Nations allowing Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil to buy much-needed food and medicines for its people.

"Jordan welcomes Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 986 allowing a partial lifting of the embargo," imposed on Baghdad after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said.

Dr. Muasher, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra said Iraq's acceptance of the deal would be an easing of the suffering of the Iraqi people and allow (Baghdad) to tend to their nutritional and medical

needs. In Cairo, the Arab League also hailed the oil-for-food deal, as a major step towards ending the suffering of the Iraqi and urged a total lifting of the six-year U.N. embargo.

"The acceptance by Iraq of this agreement is an important step towards the elimination of the suffering of the Iraqi people," Ahmad Ben Helli, adviser to Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, said.

"We hope talks will now continue towards a total lifting of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people in compliance with all international resolutions," added Mr. Helli.

crippling oil and trade embargo imposed following Iraq's (Continued on page 7)



FAISALI IN FINAL: Ali Zoubi of Jordan's Al Faisali double kicks the ball during a semi-final match of the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Amman on Monday. Al Faisali won 1-0, becoming the Jordanian team to reach the finals of the Arab Cup Winners' Cup. Al Faisali faces Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh on Wednesday (see story on page 11)

Trad Qadi wins Northern Bedouin seat

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Trad Soud Qadi was Monday night announced the winner of the Northern Bedouin seat in Parliament that became vacant following the death of his brother, Deputy Nawaf Qadi, in March.

Mr. Qadi, (a former health minister) of the Bani Khalid tribe, the strongest tribal base in the northern badia, secured 3,862 votes, 544 votes more than his closest opponent, Abdul Karim Sarhan of the Sarhan tribe.

Observers had said that Trad Qadi's chances of winning the election were high because he had received assurances from many tribes

that he would be favoured. Final figures according to Mafrag officials showed that 16,266 (65.5 per cent) of the eligible 26,549 voters cast their votes in the 50 voting centres around the governorate. The government had declared a holiday in the constituency to facilitate the elections.

"The turn out was high and was expected because of the tribal commitments in that constituency," one observer told the Jordan Times. Counting of the votes started an hour after the polling booths closed at 7 p.m. Officials said that the numbers of voters were high during the first and last hours of the ballots.

The remaining eight candidates were all tribal members. They were Dahash Sharafat, of the Sharafat tribe, who got 2,181 votes, Abdullah Srour (1,978), Mohammad Azamat of the Azamat tribe (1,707), Qaher Nawaf Qadi of Bani Khalid tribe and son of the late deputy (1,176), Obeid Tareq Shabael of the Sardiell tribe (1,108), Mahdi Oqeil (732) and Malah Massarah of the Masa'ed tribe (275).

The Northern Bedouin voters turn out was double that of the Balqa Governorate by-elections held in April where only 33.49 per cent of the registered voters showing up at polling booths.

Hani Abbadi, an independent from Damieh town in the Jordan Valley, clinched

the Balqa seat in Parliament that was left vacant after the death of Deputy Ibrahim Shihdeh in January. Mr. Qadi passed away in March during a regular Parliament session minutes after endorsing the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Under the Constitution, when a seat in Parliament is left vacant because of death, resignation or any other reason, a by-election will be held within two months of formal notification to the government by Parliament.

According to the Election Law, the winner of the by-elections will retain his seat in Parliament until the end-of-term of the serving Parliament.

also wants to see more economic benefits as a result of peace, and public opinion is important," Mr. Rifai was quoted as saying by the paper.

However, Mr. Rifai also expressed hope that "the clouds will pass and everything will return to normal."

"I think the silver lining is that the relationship has withstood what has happened and this shows that Jordan's relationship with Israel is indeed strong," he added.

The Post quoted Mr. Barak, the foreign minister, as saying that "I think Israel has a first-rate strategic interest in a strong sovereign

Regent visits armoured division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited the Fifth Armoured Division where he watched a military drill of the division's units. The Regent was briefed on the development of the division and its duties. Accompanying the Regent was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and other senior army officers.

Gulf compensation applications approved

AMMAN (J.T.) — A centre entrusted with following up compensations to be paid to Jordanians affected by the Gulf crisis has started handing returnees documents approving their applications for compensations. Director of the centre Yahya Oteibi said the U.N. compensations fund has approved 47,000 applications of the "A" category worth a total of \$227 million. He said the centre, which was established 1993 at an initiative by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, started handing out the documents last week. These documents, he said, prove the U.N. fund's decision approving the compensation applications payments depends on availability of cash.

Arafat in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Monday to brief ranking Greek officials on the latest developments of the Middle East peace process and to push for economic assistance from the European Union (EU). Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos met Mr. Arafat at his airport arrival and accorded him head of state status. Security was tight as Mr. Arafat drove into the capital as helicopters flew over the route. Press reports said Mr. Arafat will seek Greece's help to gain economic grants from the EU for the Palestinian self-rule area. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Arafat met with Premier Costas Simitis to discuss the latest progress in the Middle East peace talks. Later, he was scheduled to visit President Costis Stephanopoulos.

Hamas is locked in in-fighting over ending anti-Israel attacks

By Wafa Amr
Renter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Leaders of the Hamas group in the West Bank and Gaza are locked in a dispute with the leadership in exile over halting guerrilla attacks against Israel. Hamas officials said on Monday.

They said the dispute, which intensified after Palestinian self-rule was launched in 1994, prompted them to take steps to move the decision-making power back to the West Bank and Gaza.

"There is a dispute with the leadership abroad over stopping attacks. They want us to continue attacks, but we want an end to operations," said a Hamas official in Gaza.

"The leadership abroad does not care about our conditions here things have changed since Hamas's creation in 1987," said the official, who refused to be named.

Hamas, which regards Yasser Arafat's 1993 peace deal with Israel as a sell-out, has vowed to wreck the accord through bloody attacks against the Jewish state. Suicide bombings killed 59 people in Israel in February and March.

Israel has tightened a closure imposed on Palestinian areas and has been on heightened security alert for fear of fresh attacks ahead of its May 29 general election.

The inter-Hamas disagreement has reached a point where Hamas officials are issuing contradictory leaflets, and trading public accusations.

Last Friday Mahmoud Zahar, Hamas's spokesman in the Gaza Strip, called on Hamas's Qassam military wing to halt attacks during Israel's campaign for elections.

But the group's spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghosbeh, said on Saturday that Dr.

Zahar's remarks did not represent Hamas' real position which called for escalating attacks against Israel.

"We are now seeking to move the decision-making power to the inside from abroad, but we don't want this to lead to a split so that we can leave our options open if the political settlement fails," Hamas said.

Political analyst Khalil Al Shuqai said the leaders abroad controlled the movement's funds and were connected with other Islamic movements which made a split unlikely.

"The local leadership's screaming is a new development, but I don't expect it will be more than an attempt to influence the position of the exiled leadership," he said.

Hamas officials complain the group has been marginalised since Mr. Arafat set up

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu pledges \$310m for settlement every year

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to invest one billion shekels (\$310 million) per year in expanding Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas next week's Israeli elections.

Mr. Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud bloc, told an election meeting of businessmen in Tel Aviv late Sunday the billion shekels would be taken from "subsidies paid by the current government to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the self-rule administration headed by Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is running against incumbent Shimon Peres in Israel's first direct election for a prime minister, opposed the Palestinian autonomy agreements concluded under Labour and says that if elected he will rule out ever permitting the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

His settlement plan would

involve cutting reimbursements to the PNA of taxes and customs duties collected by Israeli authorities from Palestinians working in Israel and on goods which transit through Israel en route to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In Sunday's speech, Mr. Netanyahu said a government led by his Likud Party would also promote private investment in Jewish settlements, notably in housing construction which has been frozen since Labour came to power.

Since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, more than 145,000 Israelis have moved into 144 settlements in the territories. Another 170,000 Israelis live in "annexed" East Jerusalem.

Palestinian and Israeli analysts say that a Likud government stand on expanding the settlements will be a key test for the future of the peace process launched by

Labour and which has just entered its final phase with the launch of negotiations on the final status of the territories.

Mr. Netanyahu also vowed Sunday never to cede the Palestinians even "one centimetre" in Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu said that even if the current Labour government has reached secret understandings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the issue — a charge Mr. Peres has strenuously denied — he would not honour them if elected.

"Any agreement between Peres and Arafat regarding Jerusalem... will not be honoured by a government led by me," Mr. Netanyahu was quoted as saying by spokesman Shai Bazak. "I will not lend my hand to any compromise on the issue of Jerusalem."

Mahmoud Ahas, the top Palestinian negotiator, also

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. stresses need to set up Lebanon panel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The exchange of fire between Hizbollah and Israel's army in southern Lebanon Sunday underscores the need to put in place swiftly a ceasefire monitoring group. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

The top U.S. diplomat steered clear of stating whether the incident marked a violation of the April 26 ceasefire, which Beirut and Damascus have charged.

"The facts are still somewhat cloudy," Mr. Christopher said. He voiced hope the incident was over and said Washington was "going to be pressing for the early formal establishment of the monitoring group," noting that the exchange of fire "emphasises the need to set up very promptly the monitoring group."

Mr. Christopher said he had spoken Sunday by phone with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa.

Diplomats from five countries — the United States, France, Lebanon, Syria and Israel — were to meet later Monday at the State Department to work on the monitor group's potential operational details.

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Peres seeks to heal strain in relations with Jordan

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is seeking to heal a strain in relations with Jordan that has developed over the last few months, particularly during the 16-day Israeli military operations in Lebanon, the Jerusalem Post reported Monday.

The Post also quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak as saying that his country had a "first rate strategic interest" in ensuring that Jordan remains "confident in itself."

The English-language newspaper said Mr. Peres met with his top aides and the

Israeli ambassador to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, Sunday night to discuss the issue. The paper said Mr. Shamir was known to "favour a more hands-on approach in dealing with Jordan" and that the ambassador had repeatedly "warned the foreign ministry about the impact of the recent events" such as the assault against Lebanon upon Jordanian public opinion.

The Post quoted the Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Omar Rifai, as saying that "Over the last few months, a shadow has been cast on our relations with Israel, including the closure" of the Palestinian territories and the operations in Lebanon.

"The average Jordanian

also wants to see more economic benefits as a result of peace, and public opinion is important," Mr. Rifai was quoted as saying by the paper.

However, Mr. Rifai also expressed hope that "the clouds will pass and everything will return to normal."

"I think the silver lining is that the relationship has withstood what has happened and this shows that Jordan's relationship with Israel is indeed strong," he added.

The Post quoted Mr. Barak, the foreign minister, as saying that "I think Israel has a first-rate strategic interest in a strong sovereign

(Continued on page 7)

Bangladesh president fires army chief and offers amnesty to rebellious troops

DHAKA (Agencies) — The president of Bangladesh on Monday fired his army chief for rebellious activity and for disobeying an order to dismiss two military commanders.

The two commanders also were sacked when President Abdul Rahman Biswas fired Lieutenant-General Abu Saleh Mobammad Nasim.

State-run television, in the hands of troops loyal to the government, announced clemency for soldiers rebelling in support of the sacked national army chief.

Several thousand soldiers were said to be approaching the capital, Dhaka, from various points around the country, military sources said. The television's clemency

announcement was the first official word that the troops moving toward Dhaka were in revolt.

The head of Bangladesh's caretaker government, Mobammad Hahibul Rahman, in a televised address, called on the armed forces earlier Monday night to avoid bloodshed after they took over the state television and radio stations and their tanks had surrounded the presidential palace.

The government said it had deployed troops around the president's palace to maintain order.

Mr. Rahman said, "the armed forces have always stood by the people... They should not get involved in any confrontation and again

cause the soil of our very unfortunate Bangladesh... to be strigmatised with blood of our brothers."

President Abdul Rahman Biswas also made an emergency televised address to the population of 120 million, in which he appealed for calm and for Bangladeshis to defend their fragile democracy and the country's independence. He added that the June 12 general elections would proceed as scheduled.

All of the armed forces in the country — which has seen nearly 20 coups or attempted coups since independence in 1971 — were on top alert.

Unconfirmed reports spoke of fighting with casual

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli parties battle to win votes from Russian migrants

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Far from the streets of Moscow, another Russian election campaign is in full swing across Israel, where a fifth of voters going to the polls on May 29 are immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Virtually all the Israeli political parties running candidates in the parliamentary and prime ministerial elections address these new voters in Russian, and the slogans "mir" (peace) and "bezopasnost" (security) are omnipresent.

But the recent immigrants also have their own parties, and to compete with the larger Israeli groupings, some have found a way to skin Israeli election laws which strictly limit television and radio campaigning during the final three weeks to polling day.

Thanks to cable television, Russian-speaking Israelis receive broadcasts from a popular Moscow channel and can see not only campaign spots for Russian presidential elections on June 16 but also one singing the praises of Natan Sharansky, the former refusenik who has been living in Israel since 1985.

Today Mr. Sharansky heads a slate of candidates for the newly-formed Israel b'aliya, an immigrant party hoping to perform better than a "Russian slate" which failed to win any seats in the last elections to parliament, the Knesset, in 1992.

The main right-wing opposition Likud party has also taken advantage of the Moscow TV connection, broadcasting a Russian-language video titled "Beyahad" (together) about its party leader and candidate for prime minister, Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu.

"In the film, made by a 30-year-old former Siberian, Jana Korsorsky, carefully selected immigrants are asked who they plan to vote for.

"Bibi thinks like a Westerner, he's perfect," declares one man, his chest loaded down with red army

medals. "Social well-being is only possible if you have enough space," adds an elderly woman, expressing her opposition to giving up the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians.

The governing Labour Party of Prime Minister Shimon Peres — which garnered most of the Russian vote in 1992 — has limited its Russian-language campaigning to daily three-minute radio spots on Israel's "assimilation station."

But its Hebrew television commercials are subtitled in Russian, and Mr. Peres, who is Polish-born, sprinkles his speeches liberally with Russian words.

Mr. Peres was quick to begin studying Russian as soon as the flood of Russian immigration started in 1989 and his teacher, Sophia Landver, has a safe spot on the Labour Knesset ticket.

Labour and Likud have both named high-powered figures to take charge of their "immigrant campaign" — Yossi Beilin, the minister in charge of the peace process, for Labour, and former army chief of staff Rafael Eitan for Likud. Each has its own media budget and campaign office for the effort to woo the Russian vote.

At Likud's immigrant headquarters in Tel Aviv, the walls are covered with Russian-language caricatures showing Mr. Peres with his "komrad" Yasser Arafat, president of the autonomous Palestinian National Authority.

Across town at the city hotel where Labour has set up its office, Haim Chesler, a former head of Israel's emigration agency in Moscow, asserts that Mr. Peres "understands the Russian mentality better than anyone."

"We invest in infrastructure and education, Likud wants to invest in new Jewish settlements" in the occupied territories, reads the Russian-language campaign brochure being distributed by Labour.



ROAD BLOCK: An Israeli military policewoman points for Palestinian women to return to the West Bank as they are removed from a public bus at a military checkpoint leading into Jerusalem Sunday. A total closure for Palestinians entering Israel has been imposed as a run-up to the general elections to be held May 29, and Israel is on high alert following the capture on Friday night of Hassan Salameh, a Palestinian guerrilla involved with three of the recent suicide bombings inside Israel (Petra photo)

Animal rights activists: Likud abused peace dove

TEL AVIV (AP) — The right-wing Likud opposition says it will continue the Mideast peace process if elected on May 29, and its TV ads feature a fluttering white dove to prove it. Now the party is in hot water for allegedly abusing the bird.

On Sunday, the "Let the Animals Live" movement accused the Likud's TV crews of tying the dove's leg to a rod with a flexible plastic cord while filming it for the commercial.

"This is animal abuse so I have filed a complaint with the police," group spokeswoman Ety Aliman told Chan-

nel 2 TV.

No reaction was immediately available from the Likud, and it was not immediately clear what the penalty might be if police pressed charges.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu has bitterly opposed the past years' Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accords. But during the campaign, he has wooed swing voters by adopting a more centrist stand and suggesting he would slow down but not end the peace process.

In his TV ads, a white dove appears to soar through the air, wings flapping

wide, while a choir softly sings of the "secure peace" Mr. Netanyahu would bring.

On Friday, Channel 2 aired a segment on the making of the ad, revealing that the dove's leg was tied down. The flustered animal's attempts to break free were apparently mixed in with other graphic effects to create the impression it was flying.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned Saturday that Mr. Netanyahu, if elected, would destroy the peace process by renewing Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

Al Azhar turns battling ground for moderates and hardliners in Sunni Muslim orthodoxy

CAIRO (AFP) — Conservative scholars who once held sway at Al Azhar, the citadel of Sunni Muslim orthodoxy, are now battling to keep their influence under a new, more moderate head sheikh.

Since Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi took the helm of the 1,000-year-old institution in March, conservatives have opened fire on his rulings, led by the Azhar Scholars' Front (ASF) grouping around 1,000 theologians.

The ASF has even cast doubt on Sheikh Tantawi's religious credentials, targeting in particular his refusal to declare militants who carry out anti-Israel suicide bombings as being "martyrs."

The front insisted Sheikh Tantawi's statements on the bombers were "his personal opinion which can not be considered a fatwa," or official religious decree.

Sheikh Tantawi, who was the mufti of Egypt before becoming sheikh of Al Azhar, often differed with his more hardline predecessor Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq over issues such as

bank interest and circumcision of girls.

But even while battling Sheikh Tantawi, conservatives are also being hemmed in by government moves to crack down on radical clerics backing Muslim militants in their anti-state campaign which has claimed more than 1,000 lives since 1992.

They especially protest a draft law from the religious affairs ministry allowing only ministry-appointed imams to preach and a new rule requiring ministry permission to build new private mosques.

"We are shocked by this law which threatens to bar a large number of scholars and imams from conducting their duty of preaching," an ASF statement said.

It warned the law could cause "unrest which would go beyond any unrest in the past," referring to the militants' armed campaign.

"Mosques can not be treated like nightclubs by putting their construction under the approval of a ministry," the ASF said.

"The front's violent reaction shows the high stakes

in the game. A preacher without mosque loses all influence since access to the media is restricted," said Nabil Abdul Fattah, a researcher at Al Azhar Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The law aims to stop radical theologians and those close to the Muslim Brotherhood from taking up the pulpit. The government has concluded that conservative Azhar scholars support them," he said.

Mr. Abdul Fattah said Azhar scholars had become more radical during the 1980s especially after the secret distribution of a book by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, spiritual leader of the militant Gamaa Islamiyah.

Entitled "God is Great," the sheikh of Al Azhar must resign, the booklet cast doubt on the institution's legitimacy and found favour among some scholars who felt Al Azhar had become too much a religious "rubber stamp" for the state.

The head of the Azhar information office Sayed Askar was among 54 members of the Muslim Brother-

hood sentenced to up to five years in prison last November for membership in the banned fundamentalist group.

In the early 1990s during the height of militant violence, Egyptian secularists protested at extremist opinions backed by Al Azhar especially in the killing of "heretics."

"The ASF insists it is for cleansing mosques of 'improper' thought."

"We understand the law's goals and are not against the principle of naming preachers from among proper scholars," said the ASF secretary general, Yehya Ismail.

"But we can not throw out the numerous Azhar scholars who are not part of the ministry," he added.

The Religious Affairs Ministry runs 34,000 mosques and plans to take over another 20,000 private ones.

"The conservative movement sees itself threatened by Tantawi's attempts to use the mobilisation against Islamic radicals to bring the moderate trend into dominance," Mr. Abdul Fattah said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grenade explodes on Sanaa street

SANAA (AFP) — An unidentified person in a car tossed a grenade onto a street of the Yemeni capital's diplomatic quarter late Sunday, but the explosion caused no damages or injuries, police said Monday. "The grenade was thrown onto Algeria Street from a car which sped away. There were no injuries or damage except for a hole in the street," an officer in charge of the investigation said. The nearest building to the explosion was an automobile showroom, although the neighbourhood is home to foreign embassies. The attack came ahead of the sixth anniversary of the union of North and South Yemen on May 22, 1990. It was the first explosion in Sanaa since the civil war in May-July 1994, which ended in the victory of northern forces over southern forces seeking to form a separate state.

Doha cabinet to be reshuffled

CAIRO (AP) — Qatar's leader will reshuffle the cabinet soon, possibly ushering in greater liberalisation in the emirate, a leading Arabic newspaper said Sunday. The London-based newspaper Al Hayat said the changes were expected in the next few weeks and may include abolishing the Information Ministry as part of a plan to give greater independence to Qatar's news agency and state-controlled radio and television. Since seizing power from his father in a bloodless coup last June, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani has introduced a number of liberal policies, including lifting press censorship and allowing newspapers to criticise ministers and government policies. Among the changes expected soon, Al Hayat said, will be the appointment of the emir's younger brother, Sheikh Abdullah, to head the government. He is now the interior minister.

Israel's Telegraph closes after 3 years

TEL AVIV (REUTERS) — Israel's daily business newspaper Telegraph said it was closing on Monday after three years. In a front-page letter to readers, it ascribed the closing to a stock exchange collapse that caused a loss of interest in capital markets, a lack of public stock issuances, the rising cost of newsprint, and advertisers' abandonment of print media for commercial television. Israel's Haaretz newspaper said Telegraph finished 1994 with a loss of 24.5 million shekels (\$7.65 million), compared with a loss of 10.3 million in 1993. Telegraph said it had failed in a bid to merge with the also-troubled general news daily Davar Rishon, Telegraph's main competitor was the business newspaper Globes. In 1994, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi had said he hoped to foster peace and business between Arabs and Israelis in a joint venture with Telegraph Communications LTD in New York, which published Telegraph.

Winds blow two tourists to S. Arabia

DAHAB (AFP) — Two German tourists made an unexpected trip to Saudi Arabia after strong winds blew their catamaran across the gulf of Aqaba from an Egyptian resort, hotel employees told AFP on Monday. Martin Holzapfel and Eris Bremer set off on Friday for a short trip from the Dahab resort on Egypt's Sinai coast, said an employee at the Ginet Sinai hotel which rented them the catamaran. When the two failed to return an aeroplane was sent out to search for them but could not find them, the employee said. Strong winds had taken the craft out into international waters, so Mr. Holzapfel, an experienced sailor, steered the catamaran to Saudi Arabia, on the other side of the 50 kilometre wide Gulf of Aqaba. "This happens a lot because Saudi Arabia is so close. Sometimes even small pedal boats get blown across the gulf," the employee, who asked not to be named, said. Saudi authorities returned the couple, who were not injured during the adventure, to the Egyptian resort of Sharm Al-Sheikh south of Dahab on Sunday, police said.

Robbers attack Lebanon envoy in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Lebanon's ambassador to South Africa said on Monday he wanted to quit the country as quickly as possible after being attacked by robbers in his embassy in Johannesburg. "I have asked my government to remove me quickly, I can't afford to stay here anymore," Ambassador Charbel Stephan told Reuters. "You can tell the (South African) government it's a shame. A lot of embassies have been attacked, and they do nothing about it," Mr. Stephan said the robbery on Sunday night was the second in 10 days. He said five men, one armed with a gun and four with knives, forced their way into the embassy, which doubles as his home, after ambushing his nephew at the front gate. "They hit me and kicked me, I had to go to hospital for stitches. This time I was lucky, I could have been killed," Mr. Stephan said. The robbers took several items including a watch, a mobile telephone and \$2,000 in cash.

U.S. groups protest arrest of Tunisian human rights figure

WASHINGTON (Special) —

Four independent U.S. human rights organisations have protested to the Tunisian authorities the four-day detention of Frej Fenniche, executive director of the Arab Institute for Human Rights.

"This development appears to be part of a pattern of harassing Tunisians who are active in the field of human rights," the groups said in a joint letter sent to Minister of Justice Sadok Chabane. They urged authorities to return Mr. Fenniche's passport and to drop all charges against him that stem from acts that are protected under international human rights conventions.

Mr. Fenniche is reportedly being investigated in connection with charges of disseminating

false information and defama-

tion, according to articles 49, 51 and 52 of the press code. Mr. Fenniche was held incommunicado detention at the Ministry of Interior after being detained at Tunis airport on May 10, as he was preparing to travel to France. On May 15, the day after his release, Mr. Fenniche was questioned by an investigating judge, reportedly about private letters written by his acquaintance that were in his possession when he was detained. The four groups are Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law Group, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26, Aqaba 31, Humidity
readings: Amman 49 per cent,
Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoun 779797
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 798140
Dr. Fayez Al Ghabas 791155
Dr. Fakher Bileis 634125
Ferdows pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 646730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh 250080
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalifah pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Firic Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893390
Public Security Department 630201
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 723111
Radio Jordan 724111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akilich Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667229
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
777101/5
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Anah Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)986732
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Helwa Modern Hospital (09)995990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

04:45 Jakarta (add) (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:50 Hayat, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
11:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:45 Beirut (RJ)
11:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:15 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
03:40 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:10 Frankfurt (YP)
15:25 Rome (AZ)
15:45 Munich (YP)
19:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
20:00 Amsterdam (KL)
21:00 Aden (DY)
21:15 Beirut (ME)
06:00 Bucharest (RO)
22:10 London (RJ)
02:50 Kuwait (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:30 Aqaba (RW)
18:40 Amman OQA (arrives at Maraja Airport at 10:30) (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (OQA) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:05

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/400
Banana (Mukammal) 300/220
Banana (imported) 850/600
Cabbage 100/60
Carrot 300/180
Cauliflower 160/100
Cucumbers (small) 120/70
Cucumbers (large) 180/100
Eggplant 210/120
Fava beans 210/130
Garlic 550/350

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 London (RJ)
15:10 Frankfurt (YP)
16:25 Rome (AZ)
16:45 Munich (YP)
20:00 Dubai (EK)
21:00 Kuwait (KL)
22:00 Aden (DY)
01:55 Beirut (ME)
03:50 Bucharest (RO)
05:50 Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:30 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (RW)
21:30 Amman (OQA) (RW)
23:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Irti (RJ)
15:20 Captain Planet
15:45 Scientific Eye
16:10 The Bomb Morrison Show
16:30 ALF
17:00 News Flash
17:40 Ordy
17:45 Magazine — La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Que Le Melleur Gagne
17:30 Serie — Le Plus Petits Que Soi
18:00 Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Encounter
20:30 Comedy — Home Improvement
20:30 Doc. — Life in the Freezer
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 Feature Times "Jaws" II

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:30 Sunrise (Dahab)
12:30 Dhuhir
16:13 Asr
19:34 Maghrib
21:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetleeb, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De La Salle Church Tel. 661797.
Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 653026.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Community Tel. 845457.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.
English-speaking Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise becoming around average with winds northwesterly moderate to active. Precipitation will be active and heavy in the south and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 12/28

Amman: 19/34
Desert: 11/30
Jordan Valley: 20/35

Princess Sarvath praises film festival as 'much awaited landmark'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Sarvath El Hassan Sunday officially inaugurated this year's eighth edition of the European Film Festival, held from May 19 to 29 at the Prince Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan.

In a statement, Princess Sarvath said "the European Film Festival has become a much awaited landmark in Jordanian cultural life," and "a significant example of the importance of the delegation of the European Communities places on cross cultural exchanges between Jordan and its member countries."

During the opening ceremony, Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco Cerulli, representing the current European Union (EU) presidency, said "this eighth edition of the festival is a further reflection of the continuing deep and strong relationship between the EU and Jordan."

Pointing at the increasing number of cooperation projects between Jordanian and European universities, such as Med Campus, Med Uris and Med Media, which "enable Jordanian and European students and researchers to meet and cooperate in various fields," Mr. Cerulli also said "for the first time this festival is being presented at the University of Jordan to allow students of the campus to share with the wider Jordanian public this important aspect of the European culture."

"Caro Diario," (Dear Diary), by Italian director Nanni Moretti, opened the festival, to be followed by Netherland's "Ciske the Rat."

All movies are shown twice, with the first screen-

ing taking place at 8.00 p.m. and the second the following day at 5.00 p.m., and are presented in their original language with English subtitles.

This afternoon's "Ciske the Rat," a 1984 work by Guido Pieters, is the story of an unmanageable child of a separated couple who, provoked and exasperated, kills his unsympathetic and selfish mother. Even after the shattering experiences of prison and abandonment, the boy's unbeatable energy and unsheltered optimism succeed in creating the terms for a better and happier life.

Also today, at 8.00 p.m., the first screening of "Shadowlands," 1993 masterpiece by Richard Attenborough, one of Britain's most prominent directors, telling the true-life love story of C.S. Lewis, the successful children's story writer and Oxford professor and an American divorcee.

Germany's "Das Versprechen," (The Promise), which will be shown tomorrow, is a 1995 film directed by Margarethe von Trotta, widely considered the most interesting female director in contemporary European cinema.

Voo Trotta's movie tells the story of two lovers, separated quite by chance during their attempt to escape from East to West Berlin, in autumn 1961, a few weeks after the building of the wall.

While the heroine, Sophie, reaches the West, Konrad is left behind, but both of them will untiringly try, for the following 28 years of their lives, to defend and keep their love alive, though under extreme conditions and against the force of circumstances. When the wall finally collapses, and the two could really begin their

love story, they'll have to overcome so many years of separation.

France's 1994 "Un Indien Dans la Ville," (An Indian in the City), to be screened Thursday evening and Friday afternoon, tells the story of a broker at the stockmarket in Paris who travels to the Amazon to meet again with his ex-wife, only to find out with amazement that he is the father of a 13-year old boy. Tied by a promise, he brings his son back to Paris, but he will not find it easy to keep an eye on a child who has never seen a city.

Other films to be shown at the festival include 1987 "Nionde Kompariet," (The ninth company), by Colin Nutley, and Belgium's 1994 "Anchoress," by Chris Newby, "Despues Del Sueno," (After the Dream), by Spanish director Mario Camos, winner of a Golden Bear at the 1982 Berlin Film Festival, along with many other prestigious international awards.

"Jaguar," by Greek director Katerina Evangelakou and "Les Enfants de Lumiere," (The Sons of Lumiere), a 1995 documentary featuring famous faces, known cues and historical scenes of one hundred years of French cinema, will close the festival, on May 29.

Entrance ticket is priced at JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for students, and all proceeds will be devoted to the Centre for Special Education established in 1974 by the Young Women's Muslim Association, a pioneer project which aims at providing moderately handicapped children with a basic academic education and training them in life's skills such as cooking, personal hygiene and laundry.

Singapore minister ends visit pledging continued support for peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar Monday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan saying that his talks covered the Middle East peace process, which Singapore strongly supports.

"It is very important for countries outside the region to have an insight into Jordan and other similar countries because the peace process is a number one priority for the world community," said Mr. Jayakumar before leaving Amman for Cairo.

"We believe that the international community must support the peace process because it affects its national peace and stability. In that context I assured Jordanian officials that Singapore supports the efforts towards comprehensive peace and will continue to do so at the United Nations," added Mr. Jayakumar.

He said: "the other side of the discussion was my briefing on the situation in

Southeast Asia, and I outlined to the government ministers our thinking on the factors which will be relevant to our part of the world for peace and stability."

Before leaving Mr. Jayakumar had talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madadha stressing the need for Syria and Lebanon to be involved in the peace process for the achievement of a lasting settlement and discussed with Mr. Madadha ways to further bolster Jordanian Singapore ties in various fields.

The Singapore official said that discussion also covered prospects for Jordan benefiting from Singapore's advanced technology and technical cooperation with Jordan.

Mr. Jayakumar, who was to start a visit to Egypt, had earlier Monday met with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat and discussed Jordan's efforts to encourage tourists to the country and cooperation between the two countries in providing training in tourism related fields, exchange of delegations and prospects of joint marketing of tourism attractions abroad.

Ministry of Tourism officials said that the number of tourists from Southeast



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madadha Monday meets with Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar and Singapore's ambassador to Jordan, V.K. Rajan

Asia countries visiting Jordan in the past year was 48,067, compared to 31,739 in 1994, adding that tourists from Singapore alone last year numbered 4,000, compared to 2,000 in 1994.

Dr. Irshaidat outlined to the Singapore minister Jor-

dan's endeavours to promote the tourism industry noting that a clear surge in the number of tourists to Jordan appeared in the wake of Jordan's signing the peace treaty with Israel.

Jordan's only woman deputy says she will not support parliamentary quota for women

By Alia Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although various women's organisations have gained momentum in advocating a quota for women representatives in Parliament, Jordan's sole elected woman deputy, Toujan Faisal, says she opposes such a move, and will actively work against its endorsement should Parliament decide to debate the issue.

Women's organisations, long at loggerheads due to conflicting agendas, appear to have come together for the first time in a common effort to ensure that any amendments to the 1993 Election Law includes a clear quota allocation for women in the Lower House.

But Ms. Faisal's opposition to a quota for women is significant, as she is viewed as the force most able to muster support for its parliamentary endorsement.

Ms. Faisal, who ran for one of three seats assigned to Circassians in 1993 and won 1,885 votes, told the Jordan Times that she is "totally opposed" to the allocation of a quota for women as it is "not in the interest of either the country or women themselves."

She asserted that a quota will ensure that only women who are pro-government or have Islamist or tribal affiliations will make it to par-

liament. These women will not work for women's interests; rather, they will endorse an agenda set by the conservative elements that hacked them, she said.

A recent poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan showed that 68% of those surveyed are in favour of a parliamentary quota for women. Approximately 80% of women and 58% of men supported a quota.

Advocates of the allocation of seats for women cite present social inequalities and the lack of faith in women politicians by both men and women. They disregard the argument that setting a quota is an altered form of discrimination, which actually reinforces women's inequality. They assert that given the social realities, setting a quota would greatly enhance women's status in both the public and private realms - at least as a transitional phase.

Ms. Faisal is aware of societal perceptions of women and obstacles faced by those wishing to enter the political realm. She asserted, however, that "women who are qualified will make it (to parliament) regardless."

She added that no parliamentarian is likely to support a motion for allocation of seats for women. "If I won't support it, nobody will," she said, adding that the conservative par-

liamentarians will not want to give up seats for women, while the more liberal ones are not convinced that a quota is actually beneficial to women.

Ms. Faisal, who confirmed her candidacy for re-election in the 1997 polls, believes that women's organisations should be concentrating their efforts on changing the "one-person, one-vote" law, as she deems this to be the greatest obstacle to women's access to parliament.

The allocation of seats for minorities cannot be compared to the allocation of seats for women, she stressed. Minorities face political hardships, she said, while "women's issues are purely social; there are no political dimensions." As such minorities have a set quota of seats in parliament.

Ms. Faisal ran unsuccessfully in the 1989 election, when voters could elect a candidate from their constituency again in 1993 and won, on the "one-person, one-vote" system.

Many analysts attribute her success to the minority quota system and that she was running against only two other candidates: another woman, and a man, who later dropped out of the running.

New labour law will benefit working mothers, protect children

AMMAN (Petra) — A new labour law which goes into effect on June 16 will provide privileges to working mothers and ban on child labour, according to Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh Monday.

The new law prohibits the employment of children under 16 years of age under any circumstances, and provides for the employment of eligible and qualified handicapped persons. Employers will be responsible for the training of their handicapped personnel.

According to the minister, the article on working mothers prohibits employers from terminating their jobs or giving them notice about termination if they are in the sixth month of pregnancy or during their maternity leave.

He said the new law allows mothers 10 weeks paid maternity leave compared to the previous allowance of eight weeks, an hour a day for breast-



Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh feeding during the first year after delivery and a year's unpaid leave to care for their newborns.

Dr. Shakhanbeh said the new law provides for defining the minimum rates of wages, adding that the Ministry of Labour was creating a special committee grouping employers, workers and ministry officials to draft regulations in this respect.

The law, which comprises 142 articles in 12 chapters, sets the rules and reg-

ulations for labour inspection, employment, vocational training, employment contracts, workers' leaves, occupational safety and occupational injuries, sickness, organising labour union work and settling labour disputes, according to the minister.

He said the new law contains several amendments to the previous law benefiting the workers, and giving them better end-of-employment benefits, and increases the workers' paid leaves to include the hajj (pilgrimage) leave, and leaves for workers pursuing higher education.

The minister said the new law also provides for better organisation of labour unions and for safety and protection of workers on the job and has authorised the Minister of Labour to issue regulations for its implementation.

Dr. Shakhanbeh said details of the law were published in the Ministry of Labour gazette.

Ministry to hold conference on land use planning

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tuesday is organising a national conference on local councils to the various governorates and district governorates under the title: Comprehensive Planning for Land Use in Jordan.

The three-day conference will discuss town planning, land use and other related issues of concern to municipal councils, said Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat.

He said in a statement Monday that the meeting will focus on four main points: The first concerns planning in the socio economic development process, urban development, land ownership and housing projects.

The second deals with local councils' role in

development, regulations governing land use and a case study focusing on Irbid Municipality's experiment.

The third point concerns measures to enable the local councils to boost their financial revenues, with the Aqaba Region as a case study to be discussed by the participants.

The fourth point covers the private sector and non-governmental organisations in contributing to local community development.

Dr. Tubeishat said the conference has been organised in cooperation with the Housing Corporation as part of ongoing efforts at the national level to deal with problems ensuing from urban growth and expanding cities as well as the misuse of land, environmental problems and city planning questions.

PSD honours investigators in major bank robbery case

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday honoured several police officers for their role in solving a major crime committed last Thursday night in Sweileh.

Addressing the officers PSD Director Nasouh Muheiddin said he valued the officers' investigations into the case that led to the capture of a suspect charged with robbing the Arab Land Bank branch in Sweileh of an estimated five kilograms of gold and other jewellery worth about JD 70,000.

He said Sweileh and Amman police investigations revealed that the perpetrator entered the bank through the main door and cut the electric power connected to the alarm.

A report in the local press said the suspect was a former employee at the bank who had been dismissed from his job.

The report said that on Thursday evening May 16 the suspect visited the scene of the robbery and met the night guard whom he knew well and somehow drugged him and carry him off to his car to a place near the King Talal Dam on the Amman-Jerash Road and left him lying on the ground.

He stole the keys to the main door of the bank from the unconscious guard.

The suspect is said to have returned to Sweileh, unlocked the bank's front door, taken the jewellery then returned to where he left the guard and brought him back to his post.

Major General Muheiddin said that strenuous efforts led to the capture of the suspect who confessed to his crime and led the police to the spot where he had hidden the jewellery.

Also Monday the PSD announced the capture of a group of eight persons while trying to peddle pieces of antique pottery and a mosaics slah.

It said that the group had found the artefacts in their land and made plans for selling them for large amounts of money but gave no further details.

Under the antiquities law, excavation for or trading in artefacts is banned in Jordan but the law allows persons who find artefacts to preserve some of them at home provided that they register the items with the Department of Antiquities and take permission for keeping these items.

S. Arabia rejects anti-U.S. threats

(Continued from page 12)

murder, rape and drugs offences in the kingdom.

Diplomatic sources in Riyadh said the U.S. embassy, nervous about reaction to execution of the bombers, had recently asked Saudi authorities when the beheadings would take place.

"They got no response," one diplomat said. "But we expect the Saudis will put on a big show, as they did when the bombers of the Grand Mosque in Mecca were beheaded a few years ago."

Prince Sultan, also second deputy prime minister, dismissed the telephone call and drawings sent to the embassy implying bomb threats against Americans or U.S. institutions including the Saudi-American International School.

"These are boyish acts and

the kingdom is not influenced by threats," he said.

The 35,000 Americans in Saudi Arabia, many of whom work in the country's huge oil industry and support businesses, have been on heightened alert since the bombing. The embassy keeps them up to date through a special security hotline telling them to be on special guard.

Americans living in Saudi Arabia said last week they were concerned but not panicked by the threats.

"There is concern among many Americans here, but there is no feeling of panic," said one American, who asked not to be named. "They (the threats) just make you feel you have to look over your shoulder sometimes."

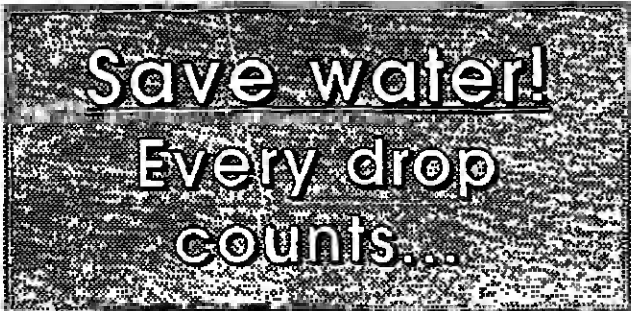
Riyadh residents said

Americans had been told to stay away from Sabat Al Adl (Justice Square), where public beheadings usually take place immediately after Friday prayers at nearby Imam Turki Ben Abdullah Mosque.

The square is close to the Saudi capital's old souks. The governor of Riyadh, King Fahd's brother prince Salman, has an office nearby. Executions are not usually announced in advance but Islamic law requires that they be disclosed afterwards.

At least 192 people were beheaded up to last Oct. 16. The only execution announced since then was that of a murderer on March 15.

In recent weeks crowds of foreigners as well as Saudis have gathered in Justice Square in expectation of witnessing an execution, one Riyadh resident said.



WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * Antonio Sawra" (in Spanish with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.
- * Children's film "Wallace and Gromit" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
- * South Africa: film "The Good Looking People" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 7:30 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- * Netherlands film "Ciske the Rat" and British film "Shadowlands" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan.

SEMINAR

- * Status and Future of the Palestinian Cultural Movement" by Lina Bader and Mohammad Al Butrawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

Tense Kashmir prepares to vote

NEW DELHI (R) — Tens of thousands of Indian paramilitary policemen fanned out across the Kashmir Valley as the region at the centre of a violent separatist revolt prepares to vote in general elections.

Authorities said between 40,000 and 45,000 troops had been sent to the Himalayan province to prevent possible attacks on voters and candidates in four parliamentary constituencies.

Polling is set for Thursday in the Baramulla and Anantnag constituencies, and for May 30 in Udhampur and Srinagar. Voting in Jammu and Kashmir state's two other constituencies, mostly Hindu Jammu and Buddhist-majority Ladakh, took place peacefully on May 7.

But authorities and separatist leaders expect more violence as the focus shifts to the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley, the epicentre of the six-year-old rebellion against Indian rule.

"It would be foolhardy and complacent not to expect militant groups to try to accelerate activities," Brigadier P.S. Bindra, in charge of army operations in the valley, told Reuters. "They will try to hit candidates."

"If the government uses armed force, anything may happen," said Abdul Gani Bhat, one of the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, a separatist umbrella group.

Top policeman Ashok Kumar Suri, said it appeared militants were conserving their energies and firepower ahead of polling days.

"They may attack polling parties and try to scare voters," he said. "They might start opening up fire."

Police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence since 1990.

Authorities and separatists swapped accusations that groups under rival controls were physically threatening voters.

Yasin Malik, head of the Jammu and

Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), said there would be no voters in the valley if "renegade" former militants he said were sponsored by the government had not threatened citizens to cast their ballots.

"In certain places the renegades will force people to vote," he said. Other separatist leaders said the army was intimidating people to vote in border areas controlled by government forces.

Authorities denied the charges, saying militants were putting pressure on voters to stay home or be killed. "There will be physical action to prevent the population from participating on the day of elections," Brig. Bindra said.

Authorities were confident turnout would be higher than in 1989 when, in the last elections before New Delhi imposed direct rule, just over five per cent of the voters cast their ballots in Baramulla and Anantnag. Turnout in Srinagar was nil because there was only one candidate.

"Turnout in the valley should be at least 20 to 25 per cent," Mr. Suri said. "If the turnout is more than 15 per cent or so, it would be a major achievement," Brig. Bindra said.

Authorities said a surge in the number of candidates in the valley to 37 this year from 16 in 1989 showed some normalcy had been restored. "These are symptoms of improvement. Yes, we have definitely turned the corner," Mr. Suri said.

Jafil Ahmad Khan, the state's chief electoral officer, said 10,000 government officials from outside the state were ready to be flown in at the last minute if, as expected, local authorities refused to take part in polling duties.

"This is going to be a turning point in the democratic history of this region," said Mr. Khan, adding that trucks and buses would be used as polling stations where buildings had been burned down.

India's BJP steps up war of words as crucial vote nears

NEW DELHI (R) — India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), scrambling for support ahead of a parliamentary confidence vote, locked horns Monday with its opponents in a virulent battle of words.

"The whole (opposition) National Front is a bogus thing — there is no nation and no front in it," BJP spokesman K.R. Malkani told Reuters.

"All these people got elected because they opposed Congress and now they are coming together only because they are ganging up against the BJP," he said. "This just won't succeed."

Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma invited the BJP, the largest party in the hung 545-seat parliament produced by elections, to form a government last week.

With its allies, the party has 194 seats and must prove its majority in a confidence vote by May 31.

The battered Congress Party, which came second, won 136 seats while a loose coalition of leftist parties, the National Front-Left Front (NF-LF), claims the support of 180 lawmakers.

Congress and the NF-LF, enemies on the campaign trail, agreed last week to forge a common platform to block a bid for power by the Hindu nationalist BJP, which is widely perceived as being anti-Muslim.

Both say they are committed to voting against Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the confidence vote, where defeat would spell the end of his government. The NF-LF then expects to take power with Congress support.

Mr. Vajpayee mounted a scathing attack against them in his first address to the nation, broadcast on state-run television and radio Sunday.

"During the last week, we have not heard them say even a word about what they would do for you or for the country. They

seem to have a single-point, six-word agenda: Stop the BJP at any cost," Mr. Vajpayee said.

"Those that have undergone many splits have come together only to fragment... and are now prepared to join hands without any hesitation, even with those whom they opposed in the polls with great vigour. This can only be termed as politics without principles, motivated by the sole aim of coming to power."

The NF-LF hit back Monday. "This is abusing government media to attack us. Is that not unprincipled? His acceptance of the president's invitation was unprincipled when he knew full well he was in a minority and would never get a majority," alliance spokesman Jaipal Reddy told Reuters.

"He is asking people to defect from our parties and violate the mandate of the people — is that principled?" Mr. Reddy said.

He said the BJP had won about a third of the seats in parliament while the NF-LF alliance with Congress held more than 320 seats, or some 60 per cent of the total.

"It is clear that the people have not voted for the BJP," Mr. Reddy said. "How can he claim the right to be prime minister?"

Mr. Vajpayee, whose party won only two seats in the 1984 general elections, will lead his government into history as India's shortest-lived administration if he loses the confidence vote.

But the BJP, which rode to power on the back of a campaign to build a temple at the site of an ancient mosque, has toned down its aggressive Hindu image over the past week in an effort to rally support for the vote.

"All of life is a compromise," Mr. Malkani said. "When you seek cooperation from others, you naturally seek middle ground."

Burma signals impatience with Suu Kyi

RANGOON (AFP) — The ruling military junta should take decisive action to end the political opposition of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a commentary published in all official Burmese newspapers said Monday.

In what appeared to be a signal the government was losing patience with the increasingly outspoken National League for Democracy (NLD) leader, the commentary urged the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to "achieve final victory" over Burma's leading dissident.

The two-part series entitled, "When will the snake-charming act end?" compared Ms. Suu Kyi and two other NLD leaders to poisonous snakes, warning that lack of vigilance and control over them could be dangerous.

The regular weekend gatherings in front of Ms. Suu Kyi's residence were described as a snake-show, that could turn dangerous for both the "snake-charmer," SLORC and the listening public if allowed to go on for too long.

Ms. Suu Kyi has addressed audiences gathered in front of her residence where she was under house arrest for six years, every week since her release last July.

U Thant Maung, the author of the commentary that concluded in the Mirror newspaper Monday, said: "The three poisonous snakes should be put back into the basket."

One analyst here said: "The gatherings are becoming an increased irritant to the authorities, especially since Suu Kyi has raised the tenor of her speeches and become increasingly confrontational in their eyes."

The NLD is widely believed to be stepping up its political campaign against the junta which ignored the party's land-

slide election victory in 1990.

Between May 26 and May 29, the NLD is planning a gathering of its elected candidates. It won 392 of the 485 contested seats in the election. The party expects most of the candidates to attend.

In a statement last week the NLD renewed its call for a dialogue with SLORC, leaving the door open to talks with the junta despite the NLD boycott of the national convention to frame a new constitution.

SLORC has ignored this call for dialogue. The call for stern action against the pro-democrats in Monday's commentary marks a harsher tone to the ongoing invective against the NLD in the official media.

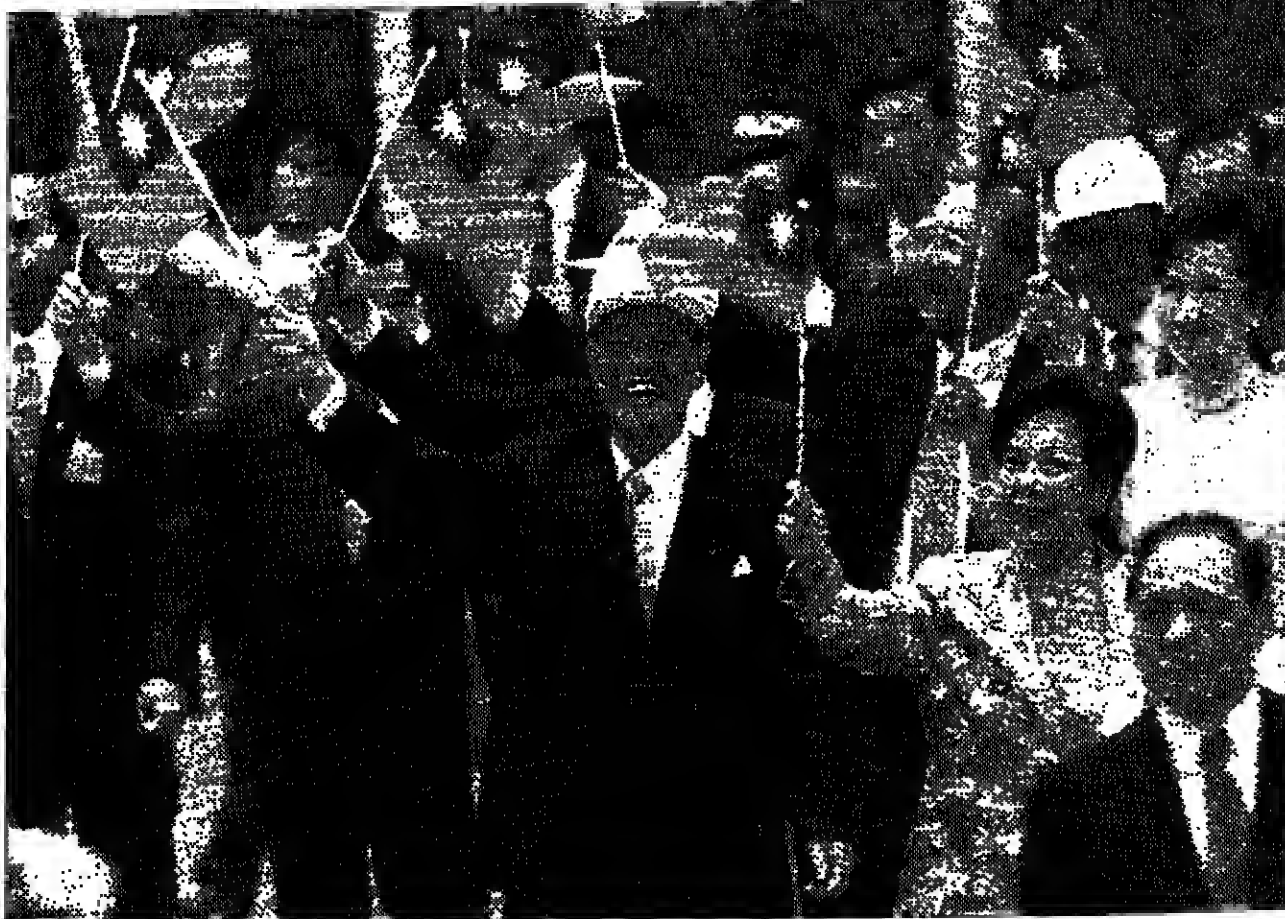
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Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui and his wife Tseng Wen-bui wave Taiwanese flags Monday as they tour around the stadium to receive greetings from Taoyuan residents as part of the ceremony celebrating his inauguration. Mr. Lee took up his mandate as the first leader in Chinese history chosen through popular election (Reuters photo)

Taiwan's Lee hails democracy; challenges China

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (R) — Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui offered Monday as he was sworn-in for a new term to make a "journey of peace" to China but rejected Beijing's demand to halt his drive to raise the island's international profile.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Lee repeated Taiwan's desire to reunite eventually with China.

But his offer to travel to Beijing was conditional, couched in the populist language of the nascent democracy which returned him to power on March 23 in the first popular presidential election in Chinese history.

"In the future, at the call of my country and with the support of its people, I would like to embark upon a journey of peace to mainland China," Mr. Lee said to applause from a stadium filled with Taiwanese and a smattering of foreign guests.

Mr. Lee offered anew to hold a direct exchange with China's leaders to open "a new era of communication and cooperation."

But analysts said his address lacked concrete initiatives to improve ties with Communist China, which rattled Taiwan before the March election with weeks of war games and missile tests it said should frighten voters away from Mr. Lee and independence.

Conspicuously absent was any mention of ending a cold war era ban on direct trade, investment, transport and

other links with China, where Taiwan businesses have invested \$20 billion by routing capital through Hong Kong, a costly detour.

Mr. Lee's praise of Taiwan's democratic system drew the biggest cheers.

"The Chinese who were regarded as dictatorial, feudalistic, penurious and backward by Western countries a century ago have created in the Taiwan area a new land of democracy, wealth and progress..." he said, calling Taiwan a model for China.

Taiwan's 21 million people, inured to isolation but proud of their hard-won democracy, savoured the moment with flag-draped, drum-beating parades, store discounts and a three-day weekend.

"It is a special feeling watching the president you actually voted into office," Lee Min-Hsi said after listening to Mr. Lee's speech. "I get the feeling he is really our president."

Businessman Chen Ting-Yu said he had witnessed a "big moment in Chinese history", adding that Mr. Lee "addressed most every concern we citizens have. If he backs up what he says the country's future will be very bright".

Taxi driver Ho Chin-Mo called Mr. Lee a "master president".

However, Mr. Lee's historic swearing-in and speech gave little cheer to Taiwan's volatile financial markets, where stock prices plunged some four

per cent and the Taiwan dollar sank.

Mr. Lee mocked China's opposition to Taiwan's independence, saying it already existed on the Nationalist-ruled island of 21 million people under the flag of the Republic of China.

Mr. Lee hailed Taiwan's "Asian dragon" economy and called for construction of a "low-tax, obstacle-free business climate" on Taiwan to ensure growth and investment.

Mr. Lee's inauguration marked a high point in Taiwan's emergence as a pluralistic society run by Taiwanese like Mr. Lee after decades of authoritarian rule by Nationalist Party exiles from China.

But it also highlighted Taiwan's acute isolation in the shadow of China, which claims the island as a renegade province that must be integrated under Beijing's rule.

Many countries did not send official representatives, accepting China's view that only Beijing — not what it calls Taiwan province — is qualified for diplomatic recognition.

Only half of Taiwan's 31 diplomatic allies sent official delegations, which included 10 heads of state.

The United States, like many of Taiwan's trade partners, sent prominent "private" envoys, including President Clinton's close adviser Vernon Jordan and several members of Congress.

Mongolia officials draw up fire-fighting plan

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolian officials have told regional leaders to step up efforts to battle fierce blazes that have ravaged the country for more than a month and threaten the long-term ecological balance, officials said Monday.

Central government officials gave three major tasks to the governors of the 21 provinces meeting in the capital, Ulan Bator, to discuss how to tackle dozens of fires raging across Mongolia's steppes, government spokesman Bayaraa told Reuters.

"Their task is to organise the work so that the fighting forces and their equipment are used efficiently," Mr. Bayaraa said.

"They are also to improve guarding and protection work to prevent new fires," he said, while their third job was to boost fund-raising for relief of victims.

Central authorities have scrambled to send trained firefighters and soldiers to regions hit hard by the fires and where local efforts have been hampered by lack of training and equipment.

In response to Mongolia's appeals for aid, foreign countries and international organisations have pledged nearly \$1.8 million in funds and equipment. Ulan Bator has so far received just \$294,000.

Officials have blamed the fires on nomads who handled fires carelessly after a nearly snowless winter left forests and pastures tinder-dry.

"If this continues, new fires will be breaking out and the damage will increase," provincial Civil Defence official Battoemur told Reuters.

In addition to burning, more than 80,000 square

kilometres of woods and grasslands and causing at least \$1.8 billion in damage to the frail Mongolian economy, the fires had caused huge indirect losses whose effects would not be evident for some time, Mr. Battoemur said.

"Damage in the forests has caused great losses to the country in both direct and indirect ways," Mr. Battoemur said. "But the country has paid little attention to this."

The fires had destroyed not only trees and vegetation but wiped out the habitats of a wide variety of wildlife and profoundly altered the soil in ways that would result in long-term changes in vegetation, he said.

Blazes fanned by high winds were encroaching on the border with Russia and threatening to engulf several Mongolian border posts, officials said.

More than 40 border guards and firefighters were battling a blaze just 500 metres from a guard station on the Hirvestei River on the Mongolian-Russian border.

The team was struggling to smother the flames with felt blankets, tree branches and pitchforks, and warned that strong winds could easily spread the blaze beyond their control, one border guard told Reuters at the smoke-shrouded post.

"If the winds get stronger, the fire is going to spread to larger areas," the guard said.

S. African rivals accuse each other of war talk

DURBAN (R) — South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its rival Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) talked tough Monday in the run up to June 26 elections in Zululand where five people were killed over the weekend.

Police said at least five people were killed and 12 wounded in ongoing rivalry between the Zulu-based IFP and the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal province since Saturday.

Inkatha accused the ANC in veiled terms Monday of an attack in which one IFP supporter was killed and 12 were wounded.

"Obviously it's people who are the enemies of the IFP and enemies of the elections that are coming on in June," provincial Premier Frank Mdlalose said.

A woman was killed and 12 people wounded when gunmen fired on two buses carrying IFP supporters home from a political rally in a central area of the province Sunday evening.

A police spokesman said the bus was ambushed near a stronghold of President Nelson Mandela's ANC, the main rival of the IFP in local government elections due to be held in KwaZulu-Natal on June 26.

"We all know there are some people who wanted the elections to be postponed for another three months," Mr. Mdlalose said, apparently referring to ANC leaders.

But the ANC said Mr. Mdlalose's comments was "war talk" and could further inflame tensions in the volatile region.

"The premier has been irresponsible in making these statements. It amounts to war talk," provincial ANC spokesman Bheki Cele said. "These statements will be interpreted by IFP followers as a call to arms and to respond to these attacks."

The elections, originally due to have been held last November, have been postponed three times due to political violence and other disputes.

"We also know there are many people who are set to destroy the IFP and I think it is among these people that we are likely to find those that committed the ambush," Mr. Mdlalose said.

In a separate attack Sunday, an Inkatha supporter was shot dead during a party meeting in Durban's Umlazi township. Sunday's attacks followed the killing of three ANC supporters in the town of Dornaybrook west of Durban Saturday.

Mr. Mdlalose said he saw little prospect of ending the violence.

"If there are some leaders that are against elections and are against the IFP and are for violence, there's very little you can do apart from appeal to them to stop their nonsense."

Inkatha, which gets the bulk of its support from South Africa's nine million Zulus, won a majority in the province in national elections held in April 1994.

IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi is at odds with the ANC over South Africa's new constitution, which he says does not allow provinces sufficient autonomy in running their own affairs.

British teens have new pinup — Prince William

LONDON (R) — British schoolgirls have a new heart-throb — 13-year-old Prince William. Teenage magazines say their readers have developed a passionate interest in the prince whose parents, heir-to-the throne Prince Charles and Princess Diana, are locked in an acrimonious divorce battle. Top-selling teen magazine Smash Hits is giving away 250,000 Love Willy stickers to adorn the satchels and pencil cases of the nation. Another leading teen magazine, Live And Kicking, is listing "10 reasons why Prince Willy is cool." Smash Hits editor Kate Thornton said: "Normally we wouldn't cover the royal family but our 13 and 14-year-old readers see him as classic boyfriend material. He's good looking and bright and he's their age. He goes to parties and is a bit of a rebel," she told the Sunday Express. But love-lorn teenagers face some tough competition — Prince William has met supermodel Cindy Crawford for tea and a picture of Baywatch star Pamela Anderson adorns his bedroom wall at his school, exclusive Eton College.

Age takes its toll on former Sri Lankan censor

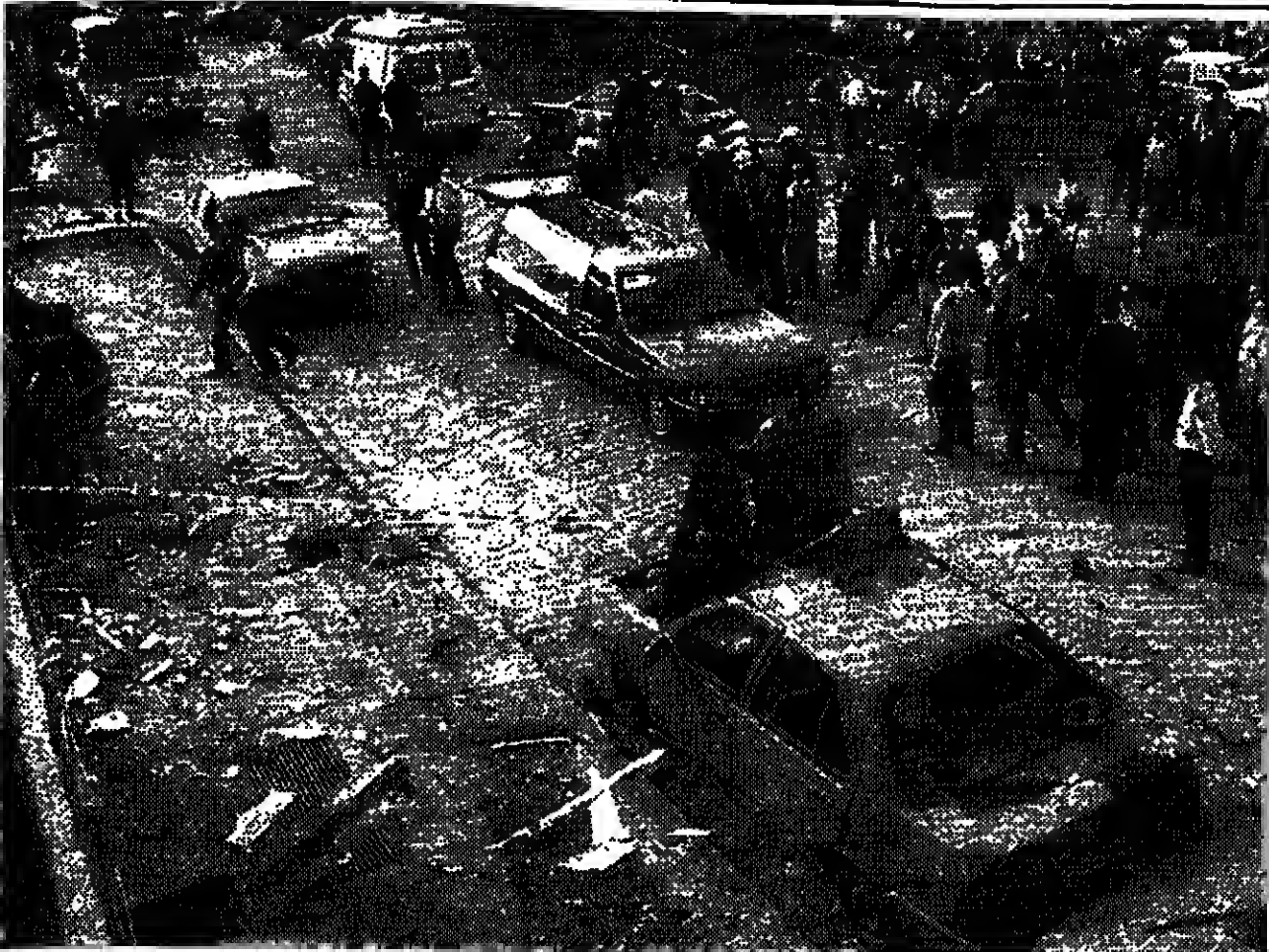
COLOMBO (R) — Age is taking its toll on Sri Lanka's former government censor, Edmond Jayasinghe, who was either born in 1940, 1944 or 1946 depending on what public document you read, he has been told to take leave until the government finds out how old he is. Deputy Information Minister Alavi Mowlana told Reuters Monday, Mr. Jayasinghe, the secretary to the Media Ministry who was the government censor of military news last year, still had his ministry job and was expected to return to normal duties. Mr. Mowlana said, "It's a question of his birthday... He is on leave until the matter is sorted out," he said. The Sunday Leader newspaper last week published photocopies of what it said were two of Mr. Jayasinghe's passports and a Danish visa application which gave his date of birth variously as 1944 or 1946. The newspaper said his date of birth was 1940.

Indian premier to present Hindi songs

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Taking time off policies, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will present his choice of Hindi film songs on state-owned radio Tuesday, it was announced Monday. The hour-long programme on All India Radio will be a mixture of nationalist and romantic songs, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, adding that it can be heard in New Delhi and surrounding towns. Mr. Vajpayee, 69, will also tell listeners how some songs inspired him in his 40-year political career.

Chinese still smoke despite restriction

BEIJING (R) — Hundreds of millions of Chinese have yet to part company with cigarettes despite a ban on public smoking in 30 cities launched last week, the China Youth Daily newspaper said Monday. In the world's biggest tobacco market, cigarette stores reported brisk business, even after a campaign launched on May 15 in 30 cities to ban smoking in most public places. A Beijing department store sold 128 10-pack cartons of foreign cigarettes in a promotion launched after the ban, while daily sales of Chinese brands averaged more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,200), it quoted a saleswoman as saying.



Policemen inspect the scene after an army sergeant was killed in a blast in the southern city of Cordoba Monday. (Reuters photo)

Russians say Chechens are preparing attack on Yeltsin

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Russian news agency aired accusations Monday that separatist fighters in the Chechen capital Grozny were setting up sniper positions to attack President Boris Yeltsin when he visits the rebel region.

Interfax News Agency quoted an unnamed security official in Grozny as saying rebel forces were buying and hiring apartments in houses along a road Mr. Yeltsin was expected to take on his way from the airport to the city centre.

"Assassins are being specially trained to carry out this attack," Interfax quoted the official as saying.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is seeking re-election in June, has vowed to ignore what he says are plots to kill him and go ahead with his planned visit to Chechnya, where he sent troops in December 1994 to try to quell the region's independence bid.

There was no immediate response from the Chechen rebels.

Separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said last week his men were not planning to assassinate Mr. Yeltsin during the visit. But he has said he could not rule out the possibility that some rebels might still try and attack Mr. Yeltsin independently.

The Russian president says he is the only person capable of restarting talks on ending the 17-month-old conflict which has killed more than 30,000 people.

The pro-Moscow authorities in Chechnya and the Russian military there have said they are capable of providing adequate security for Mr. Yeltsin during the visit, the date and details of which are a closely-kept secret.

But frequent rebel attacks have cast doubts on their ability to keep order in Grozny, although the city is heavily guarded.

Russian news agencies reported heavy fighting Sunday night in central Grozny. They said it went on for an hour and involved heavy machine-guns and grenade launchers.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the clash occurred by mistake after army posts took an Interior Ministry forces' column moving towards them for a rebel group.

TASS quoted the head of the pro-Moscow Chechen government, Nikolai Koshman, as saying three servicemen had been injured in the clash.

In a conflicting report, Interfax said the fighting had erupted between troops and

rebels who tried to make their way through the city. Interfax said the rebels were rebuffed.

The reports could not be confirmed independently.

Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov said last week that reegade members of the Russian Security Services wanted to kill Mr. Yeltsin and would try to blame it on the rebels.

Mr. Udugov, who contacted Reuters by telephone from an unknown location, said the rebels had detained an alleged Russian spy who had worked as a police official in the central Chechen town of Urus-Martan.

The man, a senior Russian undercover officer, had been ordered by his superiors to frame the rebels by making it look like the assassination was carried out by them, and not the Russian Secret Services, Mr. Udugov said.

Russian counter-intelligence has rejected similar accusations made by the rebels over the last week.

Meanwhile Russian artillery and air bombardments pounded the southwestern Chechen village of Bamut before dawn Monday as ground troops took up positions to block rebel reinforcements, a news agency reported.

Intensive shelling hit Bamut and airplanes began bombing the ruined village at about 4:00 a.m. (0000 GMT), Interfax said.

Russian soldiers also went beyond the village of Shalazhi, slightly east in the same line of Caucasus Mountains foothills as Bamut, to blockade any rebel movement.

Bamut has held out against air and ground assaults by Russian troops massed in the plains for more than a year. Several Russian assaults have been beaten back with heavy losses from tank-killing rocket propelled grenades and small arms.

Bamut has long been deserted by civilians and the Russian military authorities estimate it is defended by just 100 fighters, dug into trenches in the village and the surrounding hillsides.

They are also reportedly able to shelter in a disused Soviet nuclear missile silo near the village.

In the last month, Russian forces have virtually encircled Bamut by driving out fighters from two neighbouring villages, Orkhovo and Stary Achkhov, which had also held out for about a year. The deployment at Shalazhi would draw the nose even tighter.

5 killed, 8 wounded in more Monrovia fighting

MONROVIA (AFP) — At least five people were killed and eight others seriously wounded in fierce factional battle in the Liberian capital Monday, witnesses said.

One witness said four of the dead were civilians killed by mortars inside the Barclay Training Centre (BTC) Barracks, the scene of fierce clashes since early April between Krahn fighters and militias of warlords Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah.

Maddisoo Weoo, who said he was deputising for Krahn leader Roosevelt Johnson, currently in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, said the four were killed in attacks on the barracks by militiamen loyal to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Kromah.

Mr. Weoo accused his rivals of starting the fighting around the BTC, and complained: "We were supposed to be observing a ceasefire."

Reporters also saw a fresh body, believed to be a member of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) on Benson Street in central Monrovia.

He was reportedly killed by Krahn fighters who overran several positions of the so-called government forces, comprising militias of Mr. Taylor's NPFL and Mr. Kromah's Mandingo wing of the United Liberation Movement, ULIMO-Mandingo.

Monday's clashes started around 0900 GMT when Mr. Taylor's and Mr. Kromah's forces attacked the BTC barracks.

Throughout most of the morning heavy machine-gun fire and shelling could be heard around the BTC area from the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point. The clashes later spread as far as the U.S. embassy area there, where Krahn militiamen overran positions occupied by Mr. Taylor's and Mr. Kromah's forces.

The clashes followed a lull in the fighting Sunday when African peacekeeping forces began deploying in some parts of the city centre.

1 killed, 3 hurt in Spain blast

CORDOBA, Spain (AFP) — An army sergeant was killed and three other people wounded Monday in the first bomb attack in Spain since the new conservative government of Jose Maria Aznar took power.

The bomb went off under a garbage skip at around 7:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) in this southern Spanish city, police said, as government officials blamed the Basque separatist organisation ETA for the attack.

"We will reply very quickly ... to the ETA criminals," Mr. Aznar said in a clear sign that his government, like the 13-year Socialist administration it replaced, would not negotiate with the Basque separatist group.

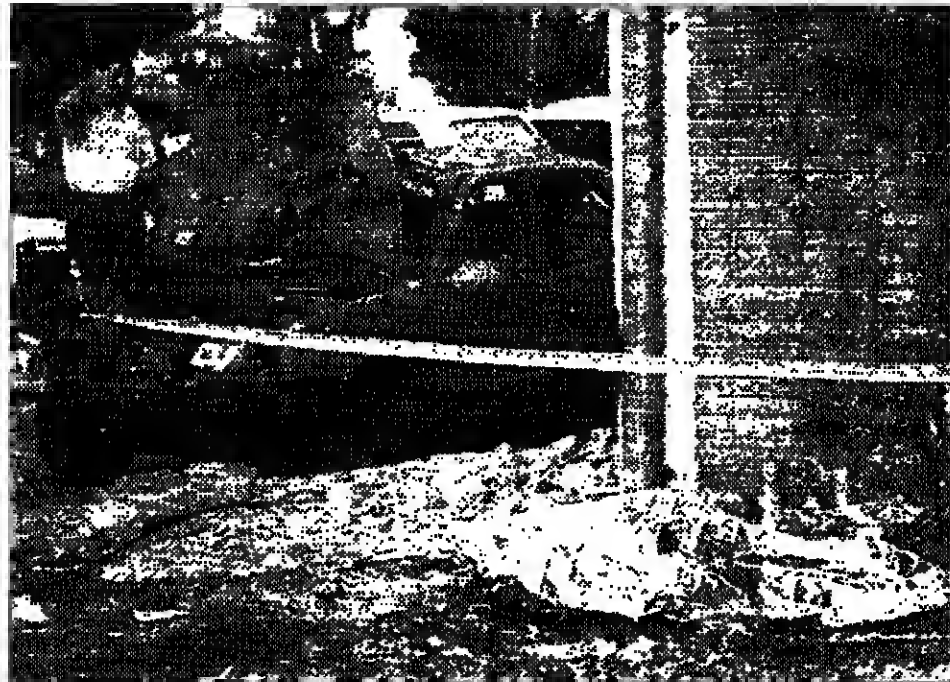
"We must overcome ETA through the unity of political groups and of all citizens," said Cordoba Mayor Rafael Merino, a member of Mr. Aznar's ruling Popular Party (PP).

Mr. Aznar immediately despatched his Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja to Cordoba, who reiterated Mr. Aznar's determination to counter the separatists rather than open dialogue with them.

ETA "threatens all Spain and its actions have no geographical limits," Mr. Oreja said later Monday, stressing the government "will not negotiate with the terrorists and such acts only shut off further" the prospect for talks.

Mr. Oreja said the PP-led government, sworn in earlier this month, would take "concrete steps" to battle ETA including "the intensification of cooperation with France."

Earlier this month France handed over former ETA chief Jose Antonio Urrutikoetxea to Spain in a sign of renewed cooperation between the two countries.



The body of an army sergeant is covered by a blanket next to the remains of a car after he was killed in a blast in the southern city of Cordoba Monday. The man at left is the owner of the car, which was parked next to the bomb placed in a rubbish container at a bus stop routinely used by soldiers. Officials described the attack as the first one by Basque ETA separatists since Spain's new conservative government took office two weeks ago (Reuters photo)

Mr. Aznar meanwhile said French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre was due to visit Madrid Tuesday for talks on anti-terrorism co-operation.

Monday's bomb went off in an area heavily populated by military personnel, near a bus stop soldiers use to go to the Cerro Muriano Base, 18 kilometres from Cordoba.

ETA, which has carried out three attacks in Spain this year, frequently targets military sites in its violent quest for a separate homeland in northern Spain, but has never previously planted a bomb in Cordoba, in the heart of Spain's popular Andalusia tourist region.

The Coalition Herri Batasuna, the political wing of ETA, said the attack proved the conflict between separatists and the authorities

bad yet to be resolved.

"When incidents like the one today (Monday) at Cordoba happen, we tend to hide deliberately the fact that we are in a situation of violent confrontation in which the state constantly resorts to the use of force, be it legally or illegally," the party's statement said.

The sergeant, identified as Angel Allon Diaz-Gonzalez, 27, belonged to the army's 10th Mechanized Brigade, which is part of the Eurocorps, police said. He was standing beside the skip when the bomb went off, police said.

The three wounded were a soldier and two civilians who were about 30 metres from the blast. The three, one of whom was seriously injured, were taken to hospital in private cars, rescue

officials said.

Police said the Cordoba bomb could have been far more deadly if it had gone off a few minutes later when a bus carrying soldiers to the Cerro Muriano Base was due to arrive.

The explosion was earlier thought to have been a car-bomb. But police said the device had been placed in a garbage skip.

ETA, which stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom, has been fighting for an independent homeland since the late 1960s in a battle that has left hundreds of people dead.

The last ETA attack, which killed a policeman in San Sebastian, northern Spain, came on March 4, just hours after polls closed in the general election which Mr. Aznar's Popular Party won.

Dole promises to end Castro regime if elected

MIAMI (R) — Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole promised Cuban-Americans Sunday that if he beats U.S. President Bill Clinton in November he will end Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba.

Sen. Dole, speaking at a rally at an outdoor park, accused the Clinton administration of appeasing Mr. Castro and of a foreign policy of "indecisiveness and weakness."

"Our foreign policy will be based on U.S. interests, not on Castro's threatening noises," Sen. Dole told about 2,000 cheering Cuban-Americans celebrating Cuba's independence from Spain.

The Republican presidential challenger flew to his seaside condominium in this palm tree-dotted town and attended Sunday services at the United Church of Christ with wife Elizabeth.

After church the Doles bought some snack food and ice cream at a small grocery store.

Sen. Dole stunned colleagues and staff Wednesday by announcing he was quitting as Senate majority leader and retiring from Congress after 35 years to dedicate himself to the campaign.

"It's already made a difference. It's energised the party. Its freed me up to do what I need to do and make a total commitment to the election," he told reporters. Sen. Dole said he would probably leave the Senate before June 11.

Seemingly to relish his new role as citizen Dole, he said his decision to leave the Senate for full-time campaigning was a good move as he tries to catch up with Mr. Clinton in the polls.

Trailing Mr. Clinton by 22 percentage points in a Time/CNN poll done after his resignation did not seem to phase Sen. Dole.

his speech praising the memory of Jose Marti, the Cuban patriot who died fighting for independence more than 100 years ago.

Sen. Dole then launched into an attack on the Clinton administration, saying that Mr. Clinton's policy from Haiti to Somalia "has telegraphed indecision and weakness to the world."

Earlier a relaxed Bob Dole, buoyed by roaring applause from race car fans, said Sunday that his retirement from the Senate has already made a big difference in his campaign against President Bill Clinton.

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Army is fulfilling Yeltsin's orders to end conscription — Grachev

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian army is already implementing President Boris Yeltsin's decrees to professionalise the armed forces and abolish conscription, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, describing the measures as timely and necessary.

"When the decrees were issued the Defence Ministry started work to implement them in the best and most efficient way possible," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Grachev as saying.

"There was no discussion or doubt about the need for them, nor will there be," Mr. Grachev told a meeting of Defence Ministry and armed forces headquarters chiefs.

"The military are not discussing the decrees, we are fulfilling them."

Mr. Yeltsin signed two decrees Thursday banning conscript soldiers from being sent to war and abolishing compulsory conscription altogether by 2000.

The first decree, which meant that no more conscripts will be sent to fight in the bloody 17-month war against separatist rebels in Chechnya, went into effect immediately.

The second decree called for the abolition of military conscription altogether and creation of a fully professional army by spring 2000.

Soldiers and sergeants would only join the armed services — currently almost entirely made up of conscripts — on a voluntary, professional basis. Most officers are already professionals.

U.S. Navy chief buried at Arlington Cemetery

WASHINGTON (R) — The body of chief of naval operations Adm. Jeremy "Mike" Boorda was buried at Arlington National Cemetery Sunday as controversy continued over valour pins that he wore on his Vietnam War service ribbons.

Boorda, 57, shot and killed himself with a .38-calibre pistol in the yard of his Washington home Thursday, less than an hour before he was to meet with Newsweek magazine reporters at the Pentagon to discuss the controversy.

The service at Arlington was private at the request of Boorda's family. A memorial service, to be attended by President Bill Clinton, is planned for Tuesday at

Washington National Cathedral.

"Adm. Boorda was laid to rest in a private family service with appropriate military honours provided by members of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard," a navy statement said.

Retired Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, who was chief of naval operations — the navy's top post — during the Vietnam War, has said there was no question that Boorda had been "properly entitled" to wear the small "V" pins on two chest ribbons for service aboard destroyers off Vietnam.

Navy Secretary John Dalton, asked about the insignia on NBC TV Sunday, said: "I think that Adm. Boorda had every right to believe that that was appropriate."

S. Korean party secures majority in parliament

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's ruling New Korea Party seized a majority in parliament Monday by recruiting an independent who won in last month's general elections, prompting the opposition to call for street protests.

A ruling party spokesman said Im Jin-Chul, a woman elected in the southeastern city of Kyongju in the April 11 polls, is the latest of 11 elected members of parliament to cross over to the New Korea Party.

"I joined the New Korea Party to respect suggestions from my supporters that joining the party will help settle pending issues of my constituency," Ms. Im told reporters.

The new entry brought to 150 the number of seats the ruling party controls in the unicameral 299-seat National Assembly.

The New Korea Party, led by President Kim Young-Sam, who only 139 seats in the elections but has reached out to independents and opposition party members to secure a majority.

The 11 entries into the ruling camp included three former members of the small Democratic Party, which failed to meet conditions to form a caucus in parliament by winning only 15 seats in the elections.

Ms. Im's move triggered protests from the opposition Monday, which had threatened to boycott the new National Assembly if the ruling party gets a majority. The new assembly is due to open on June 5.

"The New Korea Party is driving domestic politics into

turmoil," a statement by the main opposition National Congress For New Politics said.

It accused the ruling party of betraying the voters' will in the elections.

National Congress floor leader Park Sang-Cheon told reporters that his party would soon file an appeal with the constitution court to cancel new entries into the ruling party.

A spokesman of another opposition party, the United Liberal Democrats, said: "The New Korea Party itself has chosen a way of giving up parliamentary democracy."

Opposition parties said they would stage protests against both the New Korea Party and those who had joined the ruling camp.

A National Congress party official said the protests would include outdoor rallies and street campaigns.

The opposition said the ruling party had bullied the three former Democratic Party members into joining it. Opposition camps allege the administration unfairly targets them in a probe into election irregularities.

More than 100 newly-elected members of parliament are bawling allegations of various irregularities investigated, prosecutors have said.

Denying opposition allegations, ruling party officials said the new entries had joined the party of their own free will.

"We are ready to hold negotiations with the opposition parties to resolve the current row," a party official said.

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Realigning priorities

IT STRIKES us as simply outrageous that the price tag of subsidising our national wheat and flour consumption has reached the phenomenal figure of JD 162 million annually. The reason for this seemingly unstoppable bleeding is rather straightforward: In order to sell a kilo of bread to the public at the price of 85 fils, the government has to foot the difference in price between the real one and the artificial one. In other words, the government buys a tonne of flour at the international market price of about JD 210 and sells it to bakery shops for a mere JD 52 per tonne! Transportation and storage expenses run up to about JD 80 per tonne. The end result is that the state pays out of its pocket something in the neighbourhood of JD 250 per tonne to make wheat and flour available to the public, rich and poor.

We are certainly not against helping out the poor and the needy and something tangible has to be done to alleviate their dire economic conditions. On the other hand, we see no reason or justification whatsoever to perpetuate a subsidy policy that does not distinguish between the haves and the have-nots in the country. It is one thing to make possible for the very poor to feed themselves at affordable prices and quite another to enrich the already rich by paying a considerable portion of their bread bill. When some Jordanians exploit the anomaly in our subsidy policy to the extent that they begin to feed their animals with wheat or bread because its price is so low or allow some merchants to resell what they buy at subsidised prices on the international market and pocket the difference, then there is something terribly wrong with the application of our subsidy policy.

There must be a more sane policy that we can apply so that the poverty-stricken people in our society can eat and live properly at prices that they can afford. Whatever scheme we devise for this purpose is not the issue here. Whether we opt for coupons or direct cash flows, or something different altogether, needy Jordanians deserve our assistance. What we are talking about here is not only bread which does not constitute a very important element in the cost of living for even the poorest amongst us, but rather all commodities, services and basic ingredients of the daily lives of people such as rent. We are all for spending JD 60 million out of JD 160 million that could be easily saved from the national wheat and flour bill should we charge a more reasonable price and all other savings from other subsidies directly on the poor. The government would still come out ahead with tens of millions of dinars saved from the current untenable subsidy policy. This way, the poor would stand to profit more and the country would enjoy a more healthy economy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Monday said that the Israeli government and military circles are to be blamed for any expected acts of violence before and during the coming Israeli elections because they are now escalating the campaign against Hamas activists. The wounding and capture of Hassan Salameh, a leading Hamas leader, has drawn angry reaction from the Palestinian resistance group which is now threatening itself that could occur during the current Israeli election campaign, said Sultan Al Hattab. The Israeli military and intelligence, which opened fire on Hassan Salameh, have thus opened the door for violent counterattacks and therefore Israel alone can be held responsible for dangerous developments in the days to come, said the writer. The Israeli military are playing with fire which nearly burnt the whole Middle East process in the past months, and the Israeli government's acquiescence to the whims of the extremist groups is bound to open the way for the opponents of peace to win the elections and wreck the peace process.

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that the Middle East region is in for serious developments following the conclusion of the Turkish Israeli military accord. Since the signing of the military deal between Tel Aviv and Ankara, Turkey started to issue provocative statements against Syria, and Israel launched its latest aggression on Lebanon committing a massacre in Qana, noted Mohammad Kawash. The writer said Israel had wanted to draw Syria to the battle but failed to do it despite the fall of Syrian men killed or wounded in the attacks. At the same time, Turkey has now embarked on new policy of trying to deprive Syria and Iraq of their water rights in the Euphrates River in violation of international covenants on river-water sharing among nations, he added. The writer expressed the view that the new developments are bound to bring about Syrian-Iraqi coordination and probably an alliance backed by the other Arab states to deal with the new threat posed to the Arab Nation's interests.

The View from Fourth Circle

A violent Bahrain must again bend with the times

By Rami G. Khouri

The situation in Bahrain grows more alarming every week, given the escalating cycle of political and military violence by both the opposition and the state; it is even more troubling when one considers the implications for the entire Gulf region, Bahrain's military relations with the United States, and the relative silence that the unrest in Bahrain has elicited throughout the Arab World.

The situation in Bahrain — like the whole Arab region — is characterised by two basic dynamics: a) the struggle pitting top-heavy, paternalistic, oligarchic rule against a more participatory, accountable brand of governance and, b) the struggle pitting a nationalist, Arab-Islamic political vision defined by indigenous identities, needs and values against an American-British-anchored world view that values the people and natural assets of the Gulf region primarily in terms of their utilitarian value to Western consumer culture and economy.

Bahrain, like Lebanon and other scarred Arab lands, is both a haunting nightmare from the past and a possible harbinger of the future. If we are serious about the value of democracy, pluralism, political participation and respect for human rights, then it seems to me that we are morally and politically obligated to speak out for these values in other Arab lands such as Bahrain, where they are so desperately needed to end the current cycle of violence and regression.

What happens in Bahrain in the coming months and years may be an important gauge of how other Arab Gulf states may address their own challenges of domestic political evolution, regional relations, and global linkages. Therefore, it is important to look more closely at developments within Bahrain, but also to urge the people of Bahrain to move away from warfare and towards political dialogue leading to more democratic rule.

The scale and frequency of the violence in Bahrain have reached unacceptable levels, with weekly and sometimes daily attacks by opposition groups, mostly against state-linked targets and public buildings like hotels, shopping malls, schools and electricity-generating stations. The opposition's aim seems to be to undermine the economy and the confidence of foreign investors and military forces, thereby shaking the viability of the Bahraini ruling family by weakening the state's utility to foreign interests.

The Bahraini opposition claims that around 5,000 people have been jailed since the outbreak of the opposition campaign in December 1994, and criticises the government for its policy of exiling Bahraini nationals (a common British colonial policy throughout the Middle East that persists to this day under native rule in some Arab lands). One of the demands of some opposition figures is to end Bahrain's reliance on British officers to manage its internal security,

with most anger directed against security director Ian Henderson (whose personal and professional background includes many years in white-ruled Rhodesia and South Africa).

The government in turn calls opposition activists arsonists and saboteurs, and accuses Iran of instigating the violence as part of an attempt to institute Iranian-style Islamist regimes throughout the Gulf region. The government sees Iran trying to use Bahrain's Shiite population to stir up sectarian tensions, while the opposition claims that sectarianism has nothing to do with the current struggle. In March the government set up special security courts to deliver swift verdicts, including death penalties, against people accused of threatening national security. About 25 people have died due to political violence since late 1994, scores are exiled, thousands are in jail, and major foreign embassies, including that of the U.S., have issued security alerts to their nationals. Arson attacks now take place on an increasingly large scale, with half a dozen or more targets hit at any one time; such violence usually triggers counter-actions by the state security forces, including arresting dozens of suspects at a time, which in turn sparks demonstrations against the government.

The sad aspect of the Bahrain situation is that it could and should have been avoided, given Bahrain's impressive track record of education and economic diversification since the 1950s. Why did such a small, well-off, educated and politically temperate Arab land allow itself to reach this embarrassing, violent situation?

The nature of the opposition demands, it seems to me, is rather reasonable and unthreatening to the ruling family. The opposition has called for a restoration of the Bahraini parliament that was elected in 1973 and then dissolved 18 months later, and has also asked that "political prisoners" be released. (One of the demands of that dissolved parliament was to remove American air and naval bases from Bahrain, which serves as the regional headquarters of the United States' 5th Fleet).

In late 1994 the opposition collected some 25,000 signatures on a petition addressed to the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, calling for a restoration of parliament and the constitution and greater participation by women in public life. The ruling regime, however, says that Western-style democracy is ill suited for the Bahraini people; it prefers the traditional "majlis" style of interaction between rulers and ruled, whereby any citizen can speak his or her mind in front of members of the ruling family. The opposition says this system is outdated and cannot satisfy the people's need for more participatory and accountable governance.

The confrontation lines are clearly drawn in Bahrain

today, but this does not mean that we should simply sit around and watch another Arab society destroy itself in the self-inflicted flames of its own political intolerance, the self-inflicted flames of its own political immaturity. Bahrain's national vulnerability and ideological weaknesses, boasts impressive successes and distressful weaknesses, as do most Arab states that were born this century at the hands of European midwives. It is important for Arabs and others around the world to speak honestly to the people of Bahrain, in order to encourage leaders and people to build on their strengths, correct their mistakes, and check their weaknesses.

Bahrain is merely a microcosm of the same challenges that confront the other states in the Gulf, which Vahan Zanoian, in an article in the Foreign Affairs journal, recently described as "... broadening political and economic participation... to introduce greater public accountability coupled with an elimination of bureaucratic and regulatory obstacles to competitive, private-sector economic activity... Also important is a commitment to raise the quality of education and give people greater inclusion in national politics. Political inclusion should be more meaningful than ruler-appointed consultative assemblies."

Zanoian went on to say that the ruling Gulf families are likely to remain as important political and economic players, but to do so they will have to demonstrate the fiery honed survival instinct that led them to bend with demands of the times over the past century, when many of them evolved from tribal chiefs to desert warlords, to colonial protectors, to state builders, and now possibly to nation builders and eventually constitutional monarchs.

Neither the military violence of discontented opposition factions nor the ideological violence of an overly paternalistic, elite political oligarchy in Bahrain will result in stability or progress for the future. The need for new, humane and responsive systems of political participation and accountability is both obvious and urgent. Bahrain's still young status as an independent state remains vulnerable to the impact of much larger forces from all around the region and the world, including, most notably, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, with all of whom it is organically linked via assorted bonds of economy, religion, demography, and security. The only way to counter Bahrain's — or any country's — vulnerabilities is to tap the inner strengths of its own people; the only way to do that is to promote modern Arab political participation that defies both the lingering after-shocks of British geo-colonialism in the Gulf and the new spectre of American petro-colonialism in the Gulf and the wider Middle East.

Army generals a fixture in Israeli politics

By Danny Gur-Arieh

Reuter

JERUSALEM — In other

countries, army generals

ying for power might raise

the spectre of a coup d'état.

In Israel, it's just another

democratic election.

At least 15 candidates

competing in the May 29

parliamentary poll are

former senior army officers

who now march on the

campaign trail. Seven of

them are retired army

generals.

"It's a political tradition

in Israel and it's unique

among democratic coun-

tries," said political sci-

entist Yoram Peri of Tel Aviv

University.

"I think it stems from the

special situation which

exists only in Israel where a

democratic society is

engrossed in a constant

state of war," he said.

Retired generals, includ-

ing such figures as Moshe

Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin,

have helped steer Israeli

governments almost since

the country was established

in 1948, plotting its wars

with the Arabs and crafting

its peace deals.

Israelis' obsession with

security has paved the road

for military men with polit-

ical ambitions. Generals

have joined parties across

the political spectrum, lend-

ing ammunition to both left

and right in the debate on

peace and security.

"I spent all my life deal-

ing with security issues and

serving the public, so for

me it was natural to go from

being a soldier to serving in

parliament or in the govern-

ment," said Yitzhak

Mordechai, 56, a former

army general who was

recruited by the right-wing

opposition Likud Party this

year.

Both Likud and the ruling

Labour Party openly court-

ed Mr. Mordechai — who

before he retired was com-

mander of Israel's northern

region that includes south

Lebanon — hoping his

popularity would appeal to

a security-conscious public.

Security has emerged as

the single most important

issue in the current cam-

paign after suicide bomb-

ings by Islamic militants

that killed 59 people in

Israel in February and

March.

The bombings cut Prime

Minister Shimon Peres's

huge lead over Likud leader

Benjamin Netanyahu, a

hardline former commando

who accuses Mr. Peres of

squandering Israel's secur-

ity in peace deals with the

Palestine Liberation Organi-

sation (PLO).

Mr. Mordechai scored

well in party primaries and

is now in line to be Israel's

next defence minister if

Likud wins.

"The fact that these peo-

ple are seen on television

all the time, are practically

celebrities, makes them an

electoral asset. At least

that's the way the parties

view it," said Mr. Perry.

But Mr. Mordechai will

have to elbow his way past

two older Likud generals

who have already left their

mark on Israeli politics.

Ariel Sharon, the indefat-

igable soldier-turned-politi-

cian who orchestrated

Israel's 1982 Lebanon war

and led a Jewish settlement

drive in the West Bank in

the 1980s, appears assured

of a cabinet post in a

Netanyahu government.

Rafael Eitan, Israel's

army chief during the

Lebanon war, earned a top

spot on the Likud list when

he agreed to unite his own

right-wing party with the

Likud on a joint election

ticket.

Four of Israel's last five

army chiefs entered politics

and three of them have held

cabinet posts, including

Foreign Minister Ehud

Barak.

"As army chief you partic-

ipate in the cabinet meet-

ings, you have a say in all

the big political decisions.

Going from that position to

politics isn't really a

change, it's just more of the

same," said Deputy

Defence Minister Ori Orr,

one of Labour's three

retired generals.

Mr. Barak, a tough-talk-

ing candidate to head the

party after Mr. Peres retires,

was wooed into Labour by

its assassinated leader,

Yitzhak Rabin, himself a

former army chief.

Rabin led the army to a

lightning victory over Arab

states in the 1967 war. As

prime minister in 1993, he

shook hands with PLO

enemy Yasser Arafat and

agreed to Palestinian self-

rule on some of the land

Israel captured in 1967.

"It's a phenomenon that

will continue to exist as

long as there are hostilities

between Israel and its

neighbours," said political

scientist Perry.

"Maybe when peace

comes, the generals will

fade away."

LETTERS

Bridging the generation gap

To the Editor:

PERHAPS IT needed a practical, down to earth man, to speak out; Walid Maaytah's letter Changing the self (Jordan Times, May 6, 1996) to get us to actually do something, rather than academically posturing in the ivory towers of academia.

So may we now stand up and be counted alongside him, and the many who suffer and feel the same way he does, yet perhaps cannot express themselves as well, either because of language difficulties or lack of time to do so.

The first step therefore is to get their views translated for publication in Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, and vice versa.

Then it needs the academics to get together with similarly practical people, in all walks of life, to form the Jordan Open University, much on the same lines as we did in Britain in the 1960s. This operated from interested people's homes, using their expertise and experience on an entirely voluntary basis, supported by radio and television, and the media in general, using cultural centres for seminars and lectures, and school facilities for an evening.

This would start in a small way, "addressing" all the problems we normally only talk about. It would be open to all men and women of the third generation, otherwise over forty or fifty years of age, who have lived a full life and feel they have something to hand on to their children and grandchildren, but do not have the means of communicating it to others, and they themselves would like to take it further. I am talking about those who have a wealth of experience and could proudly write the letters EXP after their name for experienced.

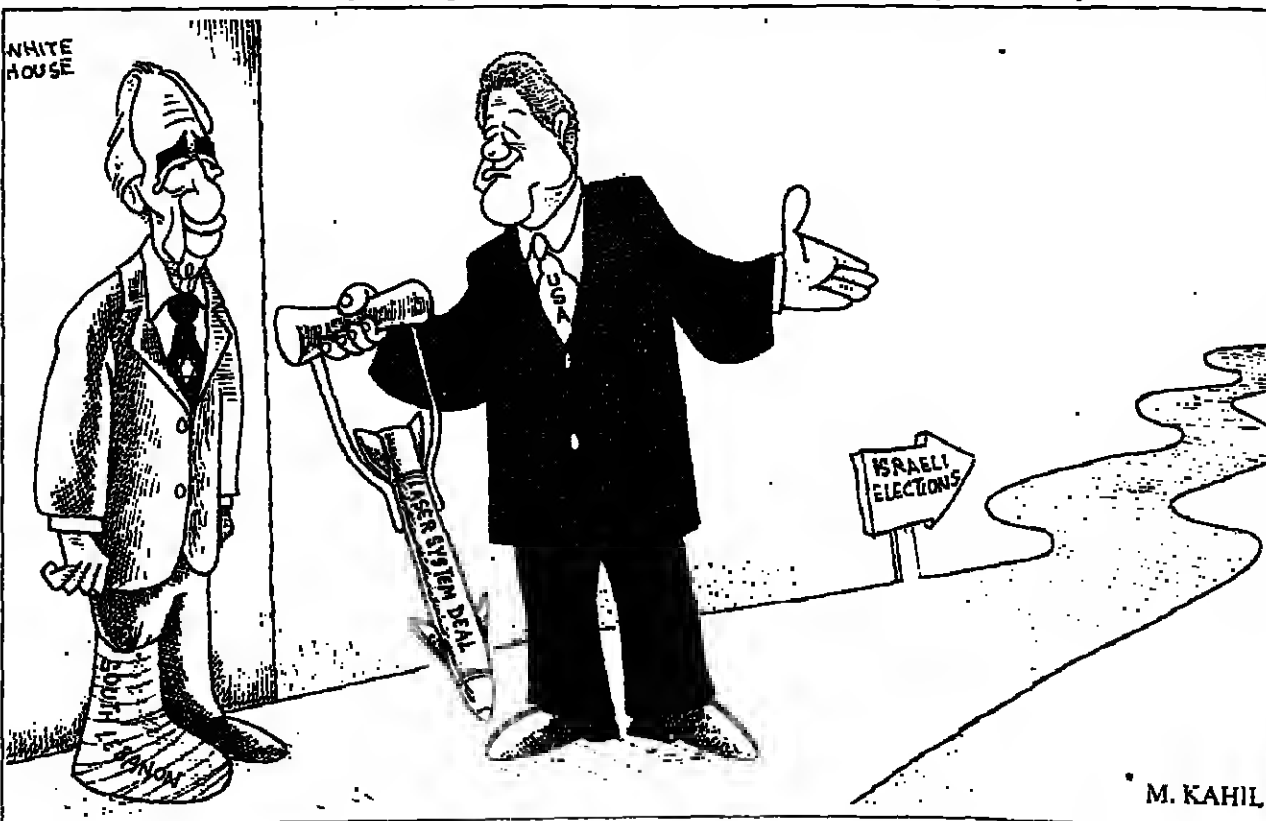
The generation gap between a grandparent and grandchild is a great advantage; parents all over the world, because of work commitments, financial problems and others, have a lot of difficulty in finding the time, even if they know how, to do all the older generation would like them to do in bringing up a family. And this is where that generation has to bridge the gap, rather than complain about it. Here is where existing school facilities would come in, at centres set up in each village, town or city, where senior citizens can meet as a group of consultants to advise, counsel, act as scribes, but mostly be available to give practical help to the populace at large.

I know that in Jordan many of the people of the third generation are still having to work for money with which to meet their present commitments, but a general scaling down of their hours of work is inevitable and the persons who would take this on are the ones who would utilise that time to benefit their own studies, and would also wish to convey their own branch of wisdom, knowledge, expertise and specialised abilities to the once removed generation of young people who are still in the learning stage of basic, rudimentary knowledge, which we are trying to get to grips with.

Communication with other centres set up throughout the Kingdom would have to start with correspondence; from this would develop inter-centre visits and seminars but eventually, as in Britain, tests and examinations could be carried out, eventually even degrees being given by the Open University, which in these days, in that country, are accepted as being equal to that of other universities, and all without a special building in which to house an hitherto untapped wealth of knowledge.

I hope the basis of something feasible will be established on the bare bones of the idea I have outlined.

Paul Saint,
48 Prince Mohammad Street,
P.O. Box 1370,
Aqaba.



Iraq, U.N. sign oil-for-food deal

(Continued from page 1)

August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The food and Agriculture Organisation reported in December that more than half a million Iraqi children may have died as a direct result of the sanctions, which can only be lifted when Iraq complies with strict U.N. disarmament requirements.

A Western diplomat familiar with the negotiations told AFP that Iraq made the concessions during the last round which started on May 6.

"Anbari came back thinking they (the Iraqis) were going to have to swallow a tricycle, then ended up swallowing a whole car plus all four wheels and then the spare tyre," the diplomat said.

The White House called the oil-for-food deal an "important victory" for U.N. efforts to persuade Iraq to meet the humanitarian needs of its people.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Iraq's agreement to follow the terms of Resolution 986 was "long overdue."

"It represents an important victory in the Security Council's efforts since 1991 to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people," Mr. McCurry told reporters.

He said it demonstrated again the need for the Security Council to stand firm against negotiating with Iraq a relaxation of the post-Gulf war resolutions.

In Baghdad, Iraqis fired guns in the air and danced in the streets.

Thousands of people across Baghdad, in groups of up to 100 and including many children, rushed into the streets after state television and radio interrupted regular

programming to announce the deal.

A few fired automatic weapons into the air, motorists honked their horns and raised "V-for-victory" signs with their fingers while people danced in the streets to drums, bagpipes and trumpets played by neighbourhood bands.

"Our joy has no limits," Jalal Jamil, a jewellery store owner, said as tears welled up in his eyes.

Iraqi Television told viewers that the Revolutionary Command Council, the country's highest body, approved the deal at an afternoon meeting chaired by President Saddam.

In Amman, the Iraqi dinar shot up against the dollar in a rush on the currency at moneychangers.

"The dinar was trading for 750 against the dollar Monday morning, and now it's almost 400 and it's bound to improve even more," moneychanger Walid Stein said.

Dozens of people, mostly Jordanians, rushed to exchange bureaus to buy the Iraqi currency, which was trading in Baghdad for more than 800 against the dollar before the agreement.

Several Iraqis who have fled to Jordan to escape economic misery at home voiced delight at the news of the partial lifting of the U.N. embargo and said they would now go home.

"I will go back to Baghdad on Thursday, that's final. The situation is sure to get better now," said Hayat Ahmad. The mother of six reserved herself a place in one of the taxis that ply the long and arduous Amman-Baghdad route.

"Thank God, we are going

home," said Hamdiya Salah, raising her hands to the skies. The woman in her 60s was selling cigarettes, one at a time, seated on the pavement of Hashemiyeh Square.

First word of the agreement came earlier Monday morning from Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nazir Hamdoun.

Oil prices, which had fallen more than \$4 in recent weeks in anticipation of a deal, dropped after Mr. Hamdoun announced the accord, but recovered quickly. Wholesale futures prices on the New York mercantile exchange initially fell as much as 79 cents but reversed course just before midday Monday, rising 46 cents from Friday's close to \$21.10 per 42-gallon (159 litres) barrel.

Analysts said the reaction of international petroleum markets will determine how quickly and how seriously other oil producers will address the issue of Iraq's first oil exports in nearly six years.

"How low can it go before they wake up in a sweaty panic?" said Leo Drollas, chief economist at the Centre for Global Energy Studies in London. "Probably below \$15, alarm bells will ring."

In the month before the invasion, Iraq produced 3.4 million barrels a day, a number that has now fallen to 400,000 barrels a day, mainly for domestic consumption. The U.N. deal could lead to Iraq producing and exporting an extra 650,000 or so barrels a day.

"I don't think that it will have a negative effect," Kuwaiti ambassador Mohammad Abu Hasan said. "The oil market will be able to absorb these 700,000 barrels."

assistance from the U.S.

Mr. Barak said he "hopes neither Israel nor the U.S. will ignore" Jordan's legitimate needs.

In addition to anger at the assault on Lebanon, Jordan has been disappointed at the lack of Israeli investment and the lack of trade which Mr. Rifai said "could employ many Jordanians."

As it stands now, one of the only Israeli businesses in Jordan is a Delta underwear factory in Irbid. (On Friday, the Jordanian embassy hosted an economic roundtable for Israel's leading 30 businessmen).

While about 130,000 Israeli tourists visited Jordan last year, 10 per cent of all Jordan's tourism, Jordanians have complained that Israelis visit Petra and quickly return, spending virtually no money in the country.

Moreover, Jordanians say that international funding for dams on the Yarmouk, called for in the peace treaty, has yet to materialise.

Peres seeks to heal strain

(Continued from page 1)

Hashemite Kingdom, confident in itself.

"Jordan, which did not wait for Syria to make peace with Israel, is a tremendous contribution to the peace process. Jordan has a central role in any final status agreement with the Palestinians."

Mr. Barak said it would be "unwise" to discuss the nature of a "link" between Jordan, which he called a "stabilising factor," and the Palestinians at this point since both sides would then view it as interference.

According to Asher Susser, whom the Post described as an expert on Jordan at Tel Aviv University, Jordan and Israel would work together to resolve the issues and relations would be back on track once Israeli political leader were no longer preoccupied with the general elections, scheduled to be held on May 29.

He said it would be unwise to discuss the nature of a

"link" between Jordan, which he called a "stabilising factor," and the Palestinians at this point since both sides would then view it as interference.

The Jerusalem Post said:

While Jordanians deny that King Hussein is upset with Peres, he declined an invitation to meet with him and President Bill Clinton in Washington last month. Furthermore while Peres wanted to visit Amman last week as a pre-election illustration of the bilateral friendship, Jordan withheld the invitation.

Others say King Hussein declined to appear with Peres both times to maintain neutrality between Labour and the Likud.

Jordanian officials play down these incidents. Yet, according to foreign ministry officials, King Hussein linked his trip to the U.S. to Israel's using its influence in helping Amman obtain additional

Hamas locked in in-fighting over attacks

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in July, 1994.

They said repeated crack-downs by Israel and the PNA on Hamas after attacks against Israel weakened the movement and raised questions within Hamas over the effectiveness of military activities under Palestinian rule.

"Military activities have started to leave a negative

impact on the Palestinian street," said Sheikh Jamil Hamami, an Islamic close to Hamas.

"There is a strong trend within the movement which calls for returning to the peaceful Muslim Brotherhood approach," another Hamas official told Reuters.

Hamas was created in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin as an offshoot of the traditional-

ly peaceful Muslim Brotherhood movement but the outbreak of the Palestinian popular uprising against Israeli occupation in 1987 led to the emergence of its underground military wing. Hamas's leaders were jailed by Israel, and for security reasons, Hamas decided in 1989 to shift the decision-making to officials in exile.

Netanyahu pledges money for settlement

(Continued from page 1)

denied Sunday the existence of any understandings regarding the future of Jerusalem.

"There are not any secret agreements between the PNA and the Israeli government concerning anything, especially Jerusalem," Mr. Abbas told army radio.

Mr. Peres is lukewarm on Palestinian independence

and also vows never to relinquish Jerusalem, which has sites holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

But the ruling Labour Party last month dropped its longstanding opposition to Palestinian statehood, and Mr. Netanyahu has made the charge that Mr. Peres will eventually give up East Jerusalem as well as a key element

in his campaign. "I will talk to them (the Palestinians) about human rights and about autonomy, but not about a separate state," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"I want to say to the Palestinian National Authority that you will not receive one centimetre of Jerusalem," he added.

math of the bombing, which severely set back his country's reconstruction effort from the 1975-90 civil war.

Presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said Paris wanted to see a consultative committee on Lebanese reconstruction, part of the agreement that ended the fighting, established rapidly.

"We want to see this committee created very soon to respond to Lebanon's most urgent reconstruction needs," Ms. Colonna said.

U.S. stresses need for panel

(Continued from page 1)

Syria accused Israel of violating the accord to spare civilians in its conflict with Hizbollah when a woman in South Lebanon was wounded in Israeli shelling on Sunday.

A Lebanese woman was injured when the Israeli army retaliated by firing several rounds of artillery at an area near Kfaritibit village, outside an Israeli-occupied border zone, Lebanese police said.

Under the April 26 deal, Israel and Hizbollah agreed not to target civilians along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

In Paris French President Jacques Chirac and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri agreed on Monday on the need for quick action to rebuild areas of Lebanon wrecked in last month's fighting.

Mr. Hariri, who has a home in Paris, called on Mr. Chirac to discuss the after-

Alistair Cooke — the last of a breed

IT BEGAN March 24, 1946, with a polite "Good evening," followed by a simple sentence.

Alistair Cooke said: "I want to tell you what it's like to come back to the United States after a sobering month or more in Britain, and what daily life feels and looks in comparison."

Fifty years and more than 2,000 scripts later, Cooke is still writing and presenting his Letter from America for the BBC. The 15-minute radio programme is wonderfully old-fashioned. Just a man speaking into a microphone, explaining the way of his adopted country.

British-born Cooke, 87, is the last of a breed, a radio broadcaster whose drawing-room voice is recognised around the world. His often-repeated aim is to touch the hearts and minds of a Dorset hus driver and a Yorkshire housewife.

In America, his avuncular style became familiar to television viewers of the cultural programme Omnibus, the landmark historical documentary America and Masterpiece Theatre.

A few years ago, Cooke relinquished his spot in the study on Masterpiece Theatre, handing over the role of drama guide to New York Times columnist Russell Baker.

But Cooke did not slide into retirement. Every Thursday, he sits at a manual typewriter in his New York apartment and bangs out a letter that is later dotted with handwritten corrections.

He then takes a cab ride to the BBC studios, where he reads the letter in that familiar, deadpan style. He once told an interviewer, "the easier it sounds... the harder it is to do."

Cooke tells the story of a country. The big shows do not interest him much. His heart remains with cab drivers and construction workers.

More than a million Britons — including politicians and royalty — tune in to hear him Sunday morning, and that is for a repeat broadcast.

"The 'letter' is a relic from a hygone age," says

Nick Clarke, a BBC broadcaster who is writing a biography about Cooke.

Cooke declined most recent interview requests; he apparently prefers to let his letters, books and previous interviews do his talking for him. And there are a lot of words to choose from. When Cooke started the programme, Harry Truman was in the White House and King George VI was on the British throne.

"He gives a warm-hearted impression of America, with occasional dire warnings about the way you are going," Clarke says. "He avoids some of the less attractive parts of America. He prefers to give a more off-beat and disarming view, the sort of lives people lead, rather than the lives led by politicians. He sews things together in a way no one else can."

Born in 1908, educated at Jesus College in Cambridge, Cooke grew up in another media age, when a young person with zeal and a way with words could carve out a career in a hurry. He was 25 when he joined the BBC in 1934 as a film critic.

His beat for the past half-century could be described in a word: America.

Cooke's passion for America was ignited during the Depression. Studying drama as a winner of a Commonwealth Fellowship, Cooke travelled throughout the country in the summer of 1933. He was startled by the landscape and the people. In 1941, he became a U.S. citizen.

with thousands of war brides, "weeping like mad" and waving handkerchiefs "in an unbroken line, like washing day in Manchester or Leeds."

The excitement of the journey and the landing in New York quickly wore off, though. He rode in a cab in which the first gear had "given up shortly before VE Day, and the third had been out since the Battle of the Bulge."

Nylons interested him in that first letter. So did bread, meat and butter, as Cooke told Britons struggling with postwar meager supplies of rationed food.

what it was like to be in a country where artificial



Alistair Cooke: just a man speaking into a microphone

panics created shortages. "I thought you'd like to know how it feels to get back to the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave," he said.

Apparently, the listeners loved what they heard. The original 13-week run of what was then known as American Letter, received an extension. No one has been able to get Cooke off the air since.

He has met his deadlines from hospital rooms and foreign lands. He has even won jousts with his bosses back home in Britain.

Over the years, stories have emerged of one hapless BBC executive or another, flying to New York

with instructions to plug on the broadcast. True or not, the tales enhance the Cooke legend.

Lerner from America endures because it is the story of a man and his love of a country. That's something to celebrate. At the BBC, nobody is going to cancel Cooke's show.

"If you retire, you feel over," Cooke wrote in a recent issue of BBC's World Wide magazine. "The day of retirement is up to the Lord of us all, the Man up there in the sky: The Director of the Spoken word."

The Baltimore Sun

Should foreigners' intellectual property always be protected?

HAVE YOU ever wondered why, on New Year's eve in 1879, "The Pirates of Penzance" opened in New York and not London? Aided by their country's flimsy copyright laws, unscrupulous Americans had filched an earlier Gilbert and Sullivan work with a nautical theme, "HMS Pinafore". Had "The Pirates" not been staged in America, it could also have been, so to speak, pirated.

These days America is sterner about intellectual property. Its trade officials descended on Beijing this week to complain about the patchy implementation of last year's Chinese promise to stop the copying of American-owned software, films and music. The European Union and the United States are also bringing a case against Japan at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), because Japanese copyright laws do not protect sound recordings made before 1971. Many other

countries, including Argentina and the Philippines, are in America's sights.

Such international disputes are likely to become more common. One reason is that intellectual property is arguably more valuable than it used to be; a new computer programme, a catchy tune, a snappy trademark — a crocodile on a sports shirt, say — can be worth millions. More important, however, is that since the completion of the Uruguay round of trade talks intellectual property has, at least in principle, become easier to defend. All of the WTO's members have pledged to pass and enforce laws protecting copyright, patents and trademarks. If they fail, they may face legal action at the WTO in extreme cases; they may even face trade sanctions as a punishment for persistent piracy.

It isn't, it isn't, a glorious thing.

But is it right to expect governments, especially poor ones, to honour these new rules on intellectual property? Some economists have made a good case that slack enforcement of such rules may sometimes do little harm. Local firms benefit by acquiring pirated technology more cheaply than the real thing; consumers acquire affordable high-tech products and close copies of branded goods. Although the original producers of the intellectual property lose out, it is sometimes hard to tell how much. They might anyway have sold nothing in a poor country at rich-world prices. And provided that counterfeiters make reasonably faithful copies, piracy is free publicity: how many Chinese would know about Microsoft's latest programme, or listen to Michael Jackson's new

album, had they not been able to buy illegal imitations?

There is one easy response to this, and two harder ones. First, on political grounds, a failure by countries to fulfil their promises to tighten intellectual-property laws as they promised to when they joined the WTO will weaken that body on other fronts. Second, on moral grounds, theft, whether of a compact disc or of the songs or software on it, is still theft. But if you put aside the straightforward wrong of counterfeiting, it is not always obvious what theft is. Much in patent and copyright law is arbitrary. If you reproduce a pre-1971 Elvis Presley recording in Japan, you are not breaking local copyright law; if you do so in America, you are. But who says American copyright law is correct? More to the point, why should China accept Amer-

ica's view of how long a drug design, say, should be accorded patent protection?

It would be nice to argue, third, that it is anyway in the self-interest of all countries of prevent the theft of intellectual property (and not just in China's case, to smooth its path into membership of the WTO). But patently, so to speak, it is not. In some cases, the interests of rich and poor countries are clearly at odds: one side has all the property. There seems to be no objective standard to appeal to. Eventually, this may change: as poor countries produce more innovations themselves, their own inventors will demand greater protection. Meanwhile, the lot of many intellectual-property producers, like that of operatic policemen, will not be a happy one.

The Economist

Bangladesh president fires army chief

(Continued from page 1)

ties in a garrison at Bogra, northern Bangladesh, but the capital was reported calm.

Thousands of people crowded around the presidential palace as the tanks moved into place.

But many people also sped home, causing traffic jams and a rush on food shops.

Several hundred supporters of the Awami League political party held two marches Monday protesting Gen. Nasim's dismissal, witnesses said, adding that the protests were dispersed without violence.

The president had accused

Gen. Nasim of leading a revolt, and ordering his supporters to march on Dhaka, after Mr. Biswas ordered two top officers to retire at the weekend.

He said Gen. Nasim's actions were tantamount to a "revolt."

Nasim, who ordered two senior officers plus a colonel and a brigadier removed from office on Monday, were unknown, but a government source said he would be arrested soon.

"It is my earnest appeal to all, including the armed forces and the auxiliary forces, to rise above party or self interest," the president said in his address.

"It is my firm belief that

you will all rise and defend democracy and the sovereignty of the nation," he said, adding that it was his decision to sack Gen. Nasim.

The armed forces, of just over 100,000 men in uniform, ruled Bangladesh directly or indirectly between 1975 and 1990, but took a back seat after democracy was restored in 1991.

Gen. Nasim was the first army chief to be sacked since independence.

No decision yet on bread prices, but various options are under study

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has not taken any decision to raise the price of bread, a staple food item that receives heavy state subsidies, but the issue is very much pressing, given that the treasury is burdened with over JD 150 million in extra expenditure to maintain the current level of prices, officials say.

Price of bread was raised by about five per cent in 1994 for the first time in several years. But and since then, the officials say, the international price of wheat has grown four-fold — from \$75 to \$300 per tonne — making it incumbent upon the government to seriously consider moves to plug the difference.

Jordan consumes around 400,000 to 450,000 tonnes of wheat every year, and only an insignificant portion of this quantity is locally produced and bought by the government, which retains the monopoly for importing wheat.

The 1996 state budget allocates JD 38 million for state subsidies for rice, sugar and milk powder — the three items that escaped that axe when the government moved five years ago to cut subsidies in a move to reduce the budget deficit as part of an economic restructuring programme.

But the actual subsidies for the fiscal year are

expected to be around JD 190 million, meaning an additional expenditure of JD 152 million over the budget allocation, the officials point out.

The officials shrug aside suggestions that raising the price of bread is one of the measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of the economic restructuring programme.

They point out that the issue is not whether there is IMF pressure, but that the government is facing a difficult situation to address the problem of over expenditure in this regard.

As such, it is very much an internal problem rather than a measure demanded by the IMF, they say, adding that the IMF does not demand price increases or decreases in any sector but limits itself to stipulating a reduction in the overall budget deficit.

The officials confirm that the government was studying various options to reduce subsidies and increasing the price of bread is indeed one of the options.

However, the government is also anxious to ensure that any move in this direction should not tax the poorer segments of the society and that any decision would take this vital factor into consideration, the officials say.

A kilogramme of bread in Jordan now costs 85 fils, the cheapest in the region

but described by the government as less than half the actual cost.

Under a coupon system introduced in 1990, the availability of subsidised sugar and milk powder was limited to Jordanians. In 1996, the government introduced another measure which narrowed down the recipients of subsidised sugar and rice to families with a monthly income of less than JD 500.

However, such a measure could not be applied across the board to wheat and bread if only because of huge quantities of bread consumed in the country and the difficulties involved in maintaining close controls over who benefits from the subsidy given to wheat, the officials say.

Under the present system, the Ministry of Supply procures the entire quantity of wheat for consumption in Jordan through regular tenders. It is then sold to bakeries either as wheat or flour at the subsidised prices. The actual market prices of products derived from the subsidised wheat and flour are controlled by the Ministry of Supply.

Complaints have been raised that considerable quantities of subsidised wheat/flour were being smuggled out of the country and that livestock breeders use bread as the main fodder for their animals because it is cheaper.

Fast privatisation has dangers — Egyptian minister

CAIRO (R) — The minister in charge of Egypt's privatisation programme said rapid privatisation could cause problems, both with redundant workers and with the cost of essential goods to Egyptian consumers.

Public Enterprise Minister Atef Obeid, in an interview published in the government newspaper Al-Ahram Monday, said the government had to balance the interests of the new owners against those of the workers and consumers.

"In a market where there's an excess in the supply (of labour), it could create many problems if we moved rapidly towards changing ownership," he said.

"The buyer or the new owner might find that it was not in his interest to keep on

all the workers and that he must dispense with some of them, so here the government must have a clear plan," he added.

Mr. Obeid, whom the Cairo business community widely suspects of dragging his feet on privatisation, said however that the government would take responsibility for any workers made redundant after the state sells public-sector companies.

He proposed four solutions for such employees — the state would either continue to pay them salaries until retirement, give them a lump sum to start their own businesses, retrain them in marketable skills or set up new organisations which could absorb the surplus labour.

Mr. Obeid said that in the

pharmaceutical industry, for example, a clear conflict of interest could emerge between consumers who have to buy a certain medicine and investors who buy a drug company from the state and want to raise prices.

"In this domain there must be a delicate balance between the interests of all. We must move calmly and slowly. The state's role is to regulate prices and regulate the flow of goods onto the market so as to create a balance," he added.

Mr. Obeid said there were also political restraints on the privatisation programme because of the feeling that public-sector companies were a national asset.

"Society must be prepared to accept the process of

transfer (of ownership) and selling. But when we sold just three companies with a total value of 603 million pounds (\$177 million), 40 per cent to foreigners, some people considered that we had sold the country," he said.

He was referring to the three companies sold by direct placement in 1993 and 1994. The state has since sold equity in more than a dozen companies through the stock exchange but in all but one case it has not given up more than 50 per cent.

In an offer which opened Monday, it is offering up to 2.9 million shares, or 90 per cent of the equity, in fertiliser company Egyptian Financial and Industrial at 30.00 pounds a share. Brokers say they expect strong demand.

But Mr. Obeid complained that he had not been able to find buyers for any of the companies he had tried to sell.

"Where are the investors who want to buy? In spite of the repeated advertisements we have put, no one has come," he said.

"I put this question to the Japanese, the Koreans and the Europeans and they said there were rules which govern whether investors come in any area," he added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make some changes in your routines today so that you can be more efficient and produce more in the days ahead. This evening would be a good time for you to spend as much time as possible as you can with love ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may have to revise some amusement plans today so they will be more to your liking, so don't hesitate to do so. Later tonight you can visit some distant fellow associates discover the best method to gain your success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't let that home condition knock you for a loop today, but handle it wisely in the morning, and then later tonight you can go out on the town with close friends and your loved ones for some fun activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You had made a plan which is not workable today, so find a different method to accomplish your aims. Gain your finest ambitions later tonight through the assistance of a knowledgeable person who is willing to assist.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may make an error where finances are concerned today, so check and double-check your figuring to be sure. Later this evening you can spend as much time as you desire by being your loved ones in some fun activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Things do not go just as you had planned them in the morning today, however, go along with the tide and everything will work out all right. Tonight is a good time for you to progress on an important new project with some assistance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You think you have completed a dull task today, however, you discover that there are more details which you had not considered to be taken of. Later this evening you can spend some quality time with your loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You find you are not in the position you thought you were in a private relationship at this time, however, let nature take its course and you will discover that your loved ones are truly devoted to you exclusively for the duration.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Use much tact with bigwigs today and avoid difficulty today, however, be happy with close friends and relieve tensions, you are under. Tonight will be an excellent time for you to go out on the town with your mate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The celestial aspects are with you today in such a manner that you are inspired to improve your relationship with others, however, these conditions could change at any moment, so you should be prepared for any eventuality.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You think you have more indebtedness and career activities that you can handle today, however, take a step at a time and you will do just fine. This evening you should take some well earned off with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A fellow associate who is unusually reliable can be quite difficult to handle today, so make allowances for an off day and be patient for the days ahead look promising for you to gain the success and prestige you have been planning.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

Vietnam secures 50 per cent debt forgiveness from London Club

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam's creditor banks have agreed in principle to wipe out half of the country's \$1 billion in commercial debt, removing one of the last obstacles to Hanoi borrowing on international markets.

A statement released Monday by creditor banks and the mostly Japanese institutions in Vietnam's London Club of banks will allow Vietnam to repay just 50 per cent of the unperforming debt and unpaid interest.

The package, proposed by Vietnam and bank negotiators, involves turning the

debt into 30-year U.S. dollar bonds, a so-called "Brady deal," named after former U.S. treasury secretary Nicholas Brady who masterminded the restructuring of Latin American debt.

Creditors, each of which will still have to agree to the terms, will be able to choose three options to settle the principle on the debt:

— a straight cash repayment that will involve a considerably higher mark down on the debt than 50 per cent. No figure was given for how many cents on the dollar Vietnam will pay under this

option that gives creditors immediate access to cash.

— 50 per cent forgiveness with the rest paid off through a Brady-style deal of 30-year bonds carrying an interest rate of the six month U.S. dollar LIBOR (the London Inter-Bank Overnight Rate) plus 13/16ths of one percentage point.

— a par bond issue that will mean Vietnam officially pays back 100 per cent of the debt but at lower interest rates that effectively give us the same discount as 50 per cent forgiveness.

G-10 warns investors on debtor government liquidity crises

PARIS (AFP) — Investors in emerging markets were warned here against expecting the international financial community to come to their rescue in the event of another Mexico-type financial crisis.

Presenting a report by officials of leading financial powers in the Group of Ten (G-10), Italian treasury director Mario Draghi said responsibility for solving problems must be shared by debtors and their creditors alike, adding that "there can be no bail-out."

Mr. Draghi, chairman of the deputies of G-10 finance ministers, said a G-10 working party which drafted the report at the request of last June's group of seven (G-7) summit at Halifax felt solutions to sovereign liquidity crises should be market-based.

Tax-payers should not have to provide support either for the borrowers or for the lenders, he said, and there could be no presumption that "any form of private claim" could be

exempt from payment suspension as part of efforts to secure a solution.

The most dramatic change in the world financial landscape over the past decade — marked by capital market liberalisation and financial and technical innovation — had been the sharply increased importance of bonds and other securities, especially in the financing of emerging market economies, the report noted.

Commercial banks, on the other hand, had reduced their relative exposure in developing countries.

Against this background, the report called for private sector action to work into bond contracts provisions that would incite borrowers and lenders to work together "in a non-confrontational" manner in order to help resolve possible problems.

Edwin Truman, of the United States Federal Reserve, who took part in working out the report, said the issue was how to develop in this area some kind of framework for investors.

borrowers contacts on the model of the Paris and London clubs.

These two informal "non-institutions" are used respectively by official creditors and by commercial banks for rescheduling or restructuring problem loans, but nothing of the kind exists at present in regard to bonds and other securities.

Mr. Draghi noted in this context that one idea mooted by the working party was to encourage investors to adopt a majority voting system — also written into bond contracts — in order to avoid solutions being delayed or blocked by a small minority of creditors.

The Italian official said another key finding of the working party concerned the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which stepped in with massive sup-

port for Mexico at the height of its crisis in early 1995.

The report said the fund should consider whether to move in with financial support for a crisis-stricken sovereign debtor pursuing "strong" adjustment efforts, "even before the debtor has completed negotiations with private creditors."

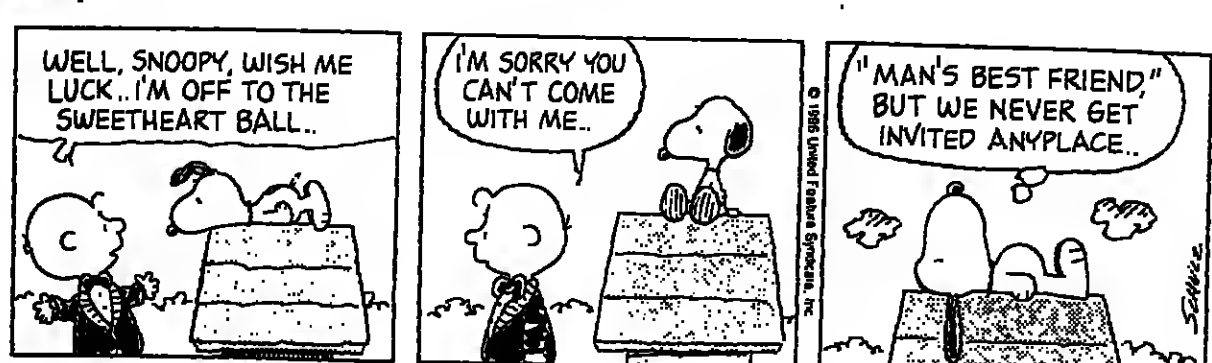
Mr. Draghi explained that IMF support, which should be "limited in amount", might serve as a "strong signal" to other creditors that the debtor concerned was on the right track.

He said a third major conclusion was that crisis prevention — which must include sound macro-economic and financial policies in debtor countries — should also focus on steps to strengthen the financial and banking systems in emerging market economies.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp

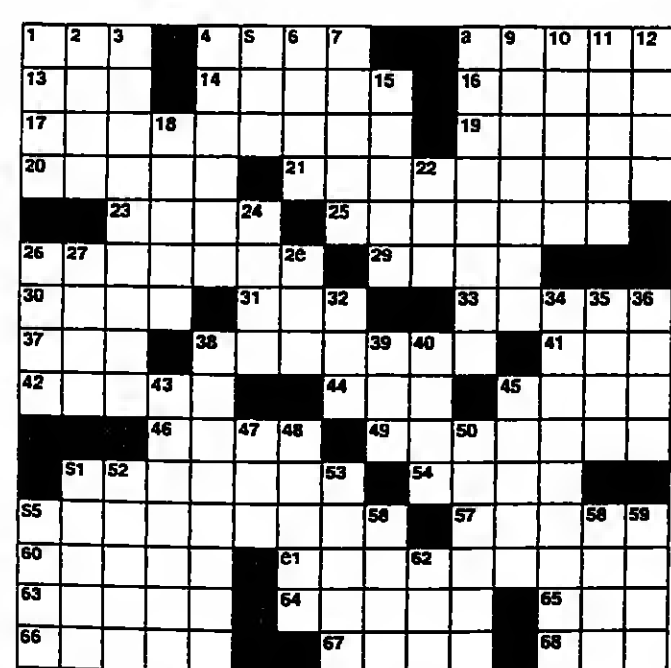


Mutt'n'Jeff

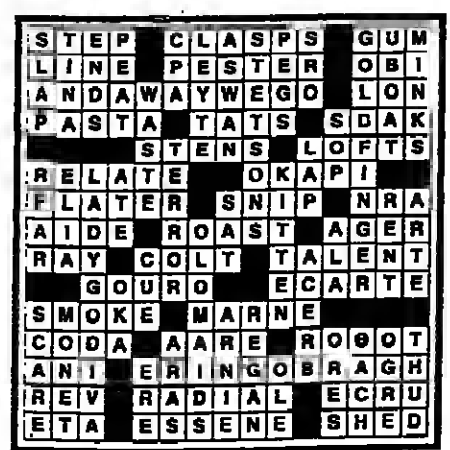


THE Daily Crossword by Anthony Mupo

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beal thoroughly
 - 4 Yielding
 - 8 Historical period
 - 13 Certain savings letters
 - 14 City in Portugal
 - 16 Blackbird
 - 17 Bawdy
 - 19 Book of maps
 - 20 Tolerate
 - 21 Dogged
 - 23 Composition end
 - 25 Indefinite expanses
 - 26 Allowance
 - 29 Large as life
 - 30 Drunken binge
 - 31 Alley end
 - 33 Work in the classroom
 - 37 Burmese statesman
 - 38 Strong
 - 41 Stocking part
 - 42 Hebrew month
 - 44 Zip
 - 45 Adornment
 - 46 Calch
 - 49 Walks a beat
 - 51 Went by car
 - 54 — a-brac
 - 55 Insoluble
 - 57 Liqueur flavoring
 - 60 Winged
 - 61 Savory
 - 63 Glossy fabric
 - 64 Escape from by cleverness
 - 65 Arbiter
 - 66 Put up
 - 67 Scorch
 - 68 Sauce or bean



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- DOWN**
- 1 Mona —
 - 2 Musical denizen
 - 3 Spiteful
 - 4 Withdraw
 - 5 Egg: pref.
 - 6 On — (hoofing it)
 - 7 More on the mark
 - 8 Cause to waste away

- 9 Lealtalk
- 10 Synthetic fiber
- 11 Santa —
- 12 Dame Myra
- 15 "Lou Grant" star
- 18 Embrace
- 22 Ripen
- 24 Soon
- 26 Render senseless
- 27 Tensille of song
- 28 E. to Morse
- 32 Sty
- 34 Monstrous
- 35 Wind
- 36 Attention-getters
- 38 Unwitting
- 39 Sharp cold
- 40 Bacon portion
- 43 Unstable
- 45 Singer Lopez
- 47 Onassis, to friends
- 48 Crystal-lined cavity
- 50 Parcel inquiry
- 51 Food grinder

- 52 Use the soapbox
- 53 Fights for honor
- 55 Ornamental container
- 56 Swing around
- 58 Wrestler type
- 59 Catch sight of
- 62 Ms. Lupino

Arab farmers call for agriculture bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab farmers are proposing the creation of a regional bank to finance agricultural projects and cut a high import bill, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) economic weekly has reported.

Emirates Today quoted the secretary general of the Arab Farmers' Union, Ali Abdul Jalil, as saying a lack of investment and inadequate government policies were to blame for the large gap between Arab farm imports, and exports.

"The union calls on Arab funds to take the initiative and establish an Arab bank for agricultural investment," he said. "The bank will finance agricultural projects that will contribute to integration among Arab countries and bridge the farming gap."

From only \$601 million in 1970, the farm deficit in the 22-member Arab League jumped to \$8.4 billion in 1975 and \$11.5 billion in 1990, Mr. Jalil said.

Official figures showed the deficit averaged nearly \$13 billion a year over the past five years.

The gap covers most products, with Arab self-sufficiency standing at 57 per cent in cereals, 55 per cent in wheat, 57 per cent in barley, 71 per cent in rice, and 56 per cent in corn, according to the figures.

"There are several factors which have contributed to widening the food gap in the Arab World, including the absence of joint Arab farming policies and concentration of

most regional governments on local, costly projects which do not achieve the required results on the pan-Arab level," Mr. Jalil said.

"Despite an increase in the production of some crops, such an increase has failed to match the steady growth in the population and the improvement of living standards in the Arab World," he added.

Arab states have several development funds but none is specialised in financing farming projects. As a result,

investment in the agricultural sector in the region has remained at below four per cent of the total investment.

Lack of funds and proper farming plans, coupled with instability in some member states, have also left vast areas unexploited.

Official reports showed Arab states had 193 million hectares (500 million acres) of arable land but only 64 million hectares (160 million acres) are utilised in farming.

Murad urges Italians to invest in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Haidar Murad, Monday urged the Jordanian private sector's keenness to bolster relations with Italy, especially at the present time which is distinguished by economic openness among the world countries.

Addressing a visiting Italian trade delegation, Mr. Murad said Jordan exports \$18 million worth of goods to Italy annually and imports \$138 million from the European country.

Mr. Murad briefed the visiting delegation on the economic reform programme carried out by the government and the process of enacting investment-attracting laws. The investment promotion law, he said, has given many incentives to foreign investors and made them equal to local investors.

Referring to development projects presented by Jordan to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which convened in Amman last October, Mr. Murad called on the Italian private sector to invest in the region as a whole and in Jordan in particular in view of the Kingdom's stability and security as well as its strategic location in the region.

The president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce also highlighted the ongoing negotiations between the Kingdom and the European Union (EU) on the Jordanian-EU partnership agreement and Jordan's desire to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), saying this would give the country a chance to merge with the world economy.

The head of the Italian delegation, Maria Luisa de Martis, said the visit to Jordan, organised by the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade in collaboration with the Italian embassy in Amman, aims to familiarise Italian businessmen with the Jordanian investment climate.

Three working papers were presented at the seminar. The first was presented by JBA secretary Thabit Taher on "The Jordanian economy: A perspective on cooperation with Spain," the second by Director General of the Arab Bank in Madrid, Rashad Khourshid, on financing industrial projects and commercial activities in Jordan, and the third by JBA Vice-President Fakhri Bilbeisi on the role of monetary and financial policies in encouraging investments.

Mr. Taher dealt mainly with the active role of the Jordanian private sector and said that it successfully contributed to the economic development process.

Jordanian, Spanish businessmen meet to strengthen ties

MADRID (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Spanish Business Council opened its second meeting in the Spanish capital Monday.

President of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Hamdi Tabbaa underlined the important role of the council in bolstering bilateral ties and establishing joint ventures.

Mr. Tabbaa outlined Jordan's economic policies and reforms carried out by the government over the past few years to encourage investments and give a greater role to the private sector in the national development process.

He also briefed the meeting on regional and international economic development projects launched following the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit hosted by Jordan last year.

Following the meeting, a seminar on Spanish economic cooperation with Jordan and the Middle East was held.

Three working papers were presented at the seminar. The first was presented by JBA secretary Thabit Taher on "The Jordanian economy: A perspective on cooperation with Spain," the second by Director General of the Arab Bank in Madrid, Rashad Khourshid, on financing industrial projects and commercial activities in Jordan, and the third by JBA Vice-President Fakhri Bilbeisi on the role of monetary and financial policies in encouraging investments.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - GROUND FLOOR											
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179											
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 20/05/1996											
PART 13 MONTHS HIGH	CORPORATE BANK	P / E	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.55	8	620	240120	226.00	50		
4,890	4,180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.7	3.08	12	27817	26007	4.40	0.31		
7,730	2,350	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.4	0.81	3	300	700	2.35	2.34		
8,300	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	11.5	3.30	1	1000	4310	4.00	4.31		
3,040	2,600	JOR. KOWATY BANK	20.1	0.00	4	879	2438	2.78	2.78		
1,510	920	JOR. GOLF BANK	8.2	0.00	32	39750	38793	.98	.99		
4,480	3,300	JOP. ISLAMIC BANK	19.1	0.00	15	3689	14728	4.00	3.98		
4,650	2,150	UNION TR. SAV. INV.	19.5	0.00	7	3279	4999	2.19	2.18		
4,450	3,300	JOR. INV. TR. BANK	19.0	0.00	1	6000	22120	3.94	4.52		
4,000	2,420	SHIP. AL-HAL. (HARTNA)	1.0	5.34	17	3197	8916	2.82	2.81		
1,360	410	ARABIAN BANK INV.	0.00	0.00	128	212600	112651	.51	.54		
5,890	4,800	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.9	0.00	2	2800	2025	4.42	4.41		
1,930	1,070	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	28	13050	55232	1.25	1.24		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
2,910	2,370	JOR. FARMER INSUR.	6.6	8.51	2	561	1552	2.27	3.25		
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
1,960	1,530	JOR. MACHINERY WH.	11.4	7.22	16	7129	11689	1.64	1.64		
2,980	3,430	SHIPPING LINKS	10.3	8.20	5	2293	5593	2.43	2.44		
2,730	1,190	ARAB PORTS CO.	16.2	3.74	4	8548	2225	1.37	1.40		
1,030	900	REAL ESTATE INV. TR.	21.5	3.28	13	7500	7187	.82	.97		
1,370	920	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	18.9	0.00	1	300	160	.82	.90		
3,610	1,790	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.8	0.00	2	1000	2130	2.12	2.13		
2,650	3,090	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.6	6.27	8	1850	5894	3.19	3.19		
1,380	970	JORDAN REALTY INV.	31.1	0.00	2	1150	1140	1.00	1.00		
1,610	1,080	ARAB ESTATE CHRM.	0.00	0.00	2	103	1205	1.00	1.00		
2,600	1,870	UNION CO.	10.4	5.05	4	1600	1267	1.97	1.98		
1,300	820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	14	8550	9224	1.08	1.06		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
4,120	3,390	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.9	2.79	23	14124	50047	3.52	3.58		
3,750	2,900	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	33.6	0.00	3	71	220	2.12	2.22		
6,030	4,750	ARAB POWER CO.	16.2	3.74	4	8548	2225	1.37	1.40		
11,250	8,900	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	13.6	5.96	6	200	3032	10.12	10.07		
8,400	7,000	JORDAN TANNING	7.6	5.07	1	550	2905	7.10	7.10		
9,250	7,100	JOR. WORTSTO MILLS	9.5	3.28	1	500	3700	7.40	7.40		
5,870	3,660	ARAB FURNIT. FACT.	20.9	5.25	22	4343	16042	2.60	3.81		
6,450	5,800	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	9.9	0.00	81	161850	120109	.66	.68		
2,650	2,000	JOR. PUMPS MANUF.	11.2	5.91	1	350	711	2.62	2.02		
2,640	1,820	NAPLA INDUSTRIES	F	0.00	2	750	1243	1.62	1.65		
8,640	4,710	ORALDAMA TR. INV.	15.9	2.45	16	13450	77330	5.85	5.80		
740	430	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.00	0.00	81	161850	120109	.66	.68		
1,240	1,240	ARAB TRAVEL TRD.	8.4	8.35	11	1450	4290	1.32	1.24		
1,450	1,840	NATIONAL INDS.	12.6	7.06	52	41554	25518	.85	.85		
2,950	1,060	INTERMED. PETRO. CHRM.	0.00	0.00	60	36900	50297	2.34	1.38		
1,330	830	JOR. ROPEWORK INDS.	F	0.00	12	10067	11079	2.00	1.11		
1,340	970	JOR. STEELWORK CHRM.	0.00	0.00	13	4550	8821	2.04	1.75		
2,580	1,080	ARAB STEEL CHRM.	25.8	0.00	31	11700	16150	1.91	1.98		
3,650	2,300	UNIV. MOD. INDS.	7.8	7.81	30	10050	25967	2.55	2.56		
2,480	1,390	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	20.7	0.00	22	3900	9715	1.66	1.65		
2,010	1,000	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	30.4	0.00	19	12600	4167	1.12	1.12		
2,610	1,980	EG-NAV READY WEAR	0.00	0.00	34	10515	20532	1.98	1.98		
1,630	1,180	INTL. TOBACCO	29.9	0.00	25	11590	14713	1.47	1.27		
2,580	1,180	UNION CR. & VEG.	22.3	0.00	4	2500	4745	1.37	1.35		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
147,64	147,64	INDEX	147.64	147.64	524	359775	484181				
GRAND TOTAL											
147,64	147,64	INDEX	147.64	147.64	524	359775	484181				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 20/05/1996											
900	700	JOR. TRAC. FAC.	20.3	0.00	7	6250	4735	.75	.76		
1,000	760	UNION INV. 504	86.6	0.00	19	22578	7308	.81	.81		
740	340	JOR. INDS. MACH. JERICO	0.00	0.00	7	7000	3225	.54	.57		
1,240	630	ARAB FOOD & NEG.	0.00	0.00	4	8123	590	.71	.71		
2,030	1,380	NATL. CIGARETTES	0.00	0.00	31	11500	18367	1.57	1.58		
900	530	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	0.00	0.00	2	1350	788	.60	.63		
1,270	600	NATL. TEXTILE	0.00	0.00	1	100	66	.62	.66		
1,100	700	NATL. MOLT. ENG. HAMICO	0.00	0.00	20	15850	12353	.77	.77		
1,150	590	KAZAK DRES & MOUTOS	0.00	0.00	2	2500	885	.99	.99		
1,350	800	JORDAN STEEL	0.00	0.00	13	6652	4344	.94	.94		
1,030	670	MYNARAY PHARM. 25X	0.00	0.00	11	10200	4540	.98	.70		
1,850	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75X	0.00	0.00	6	3023	2923	1.24	1.24		
1,030	680	KAZAK PHARM. 50X	0.00	0.00	59	107250	25812	.72	.73		
870	570	INDS. ENG.	20.4	0.00	10	7250	4316	.59	.60		
1,520	880	INDS. CERAMIC	0.00	0.00	9	1994	1671	.92	.93		
1,020	680	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	0.00	0.00	5	7600	5074	.68	.70		
1,500	700	MID. EAST COMPLEX	0.8	0.00	32	31000	23227	.74	.75		
GRAND TOTAL											
328	241479	INDEX	328	241479	328	241479	328				

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan Islamic Bank to increase capital to JD 22 million

THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordan Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment has approved a recommendation from the board of directors to raise the bank's capital from JD 15 million to JD 22 million and has authorised the board to take the necessary measures towards that end. The increase has become necessary to meet international requirements for capital adequacy and to face the challenges of heightened competition between banks on



Chicago Bulls' Luc Longley (right) ties up Orlando Magic's Shaquille O'Neal (left) in game in Chicago, May 19. Chicago won the second quarter of Eastern Conference finals.

Bulls trounce Magic 121-83

CHICAGO (AP) — Dennis Rodman dominated, the Chicago Bulls romped and most of the Orlando Magic forgot to show up.

Rodman grabbed 21 rebounds, scored 13 points and played tough defense on the much bigger Shaquille O'Neal on Sunday as the Bulls opened the Eastern Conference finals with a 121-83 victory.

Michael Jordan scored 21 points and Scottie Pippen had 18 for Chicago, which outscored Orlando 62-28 and took the first step to avenging last year's bitter second-round loss to the Magic.

Anfernee Hardaway, who drew a technical for shoving Rodman, had 38 points and O'Neal 27. But the Magic's other three starters — Horace Grant, Nick Anderson and Dennis Scott — combined for 2.

Grant, who overpowered the Bulls in the 1995 playoffs, had no points and one rebound before leaving with a twisted left elbow late in the third quarter. Team doctors said his status for Game 2 Tuesday night was unknown.

If history is an indicator, Orlando already is in serious trouble. It has played seven postseason series; each time it lost an opener, it was swept. In 21 series in which the Bulls won the opener, they lost just one.

After losing eight of 10 games to the Magic, including four in last year's playoffs, Chicago has won four straight.

In addition to getting beaten badly on the boards, Orlando was 8-of-24 from the foul line.

The Bulls did little wrong as they showed why they won an NBA-record 72 games this season. They shot 55 per cent from the floor, and when they did miss, they often grabbed the rebound. Chicago had 20 offensive rebounds to six for Orlando.

Rodman demonstrated why the Bulls acquired him from San Antonio before the season. The blond-haired, tattooed rebounder was full of energy from the opening tip despite being weakened by a stomach virus.

forced O'Neal into two turnovers and a missed shot, and the run began after the normally mild-mannered hardaway was assessed a technical foul for pushing Rodman out of bounds.

The Magic, who went to the NBA finals last year and finished a solid second in the Eastern Conference with a franchise-record 60 wins this season, looked out of Sunday's game from the start.

Chicago opened with a 10-0 run, as Longley scored the first four points over O'Neal as the sellout crowd of 24,411 roared.

The Magic outscored Chicago 20-11 to open the

NBA PLAYOFFS

"It doesn't matter what's wrong with me," he said. "I come out and do my job." Rodman pumped his fist after tipping in baskets, grabbing seven offensive rebounds and even scoring a season-high.

"A lot of people are counting me out, and that's not right," Rodman said on his scoring. "Today there was the right chemistry."

When Bulls center Luc Longley got in foul trouble, the skinny, 6-foot-8 (2.03-metres) Rodman even defended the 7-1 (2.16 metres), 301-pound (136.5-kilogram) O'Neal. During the 13-0 third-quarter spurt that put the game away, Rodman

second period, O'Neal getting six points and three assists, to cut the deficit to 43-39. But Longley scored twice, including a reverse layup on a sensational assist off a rebound by Rodman, as the Bulls built their halftime lead to 55-45.

Rodman had as many rebounds in the first (13) as Orlando did. The Bulls outrebounded the Magic 31-13, including 11-1 on the offensive boards.

Hardaway kept Orlando close until midway through the third quarter. The Magic trailed only 65-56 before Jordan's 20-foot (6.1 metres) jumper began the decisive 13-0 run.

76ers win NBA draft lottery

SECAUCUS, New Jersey (AP) — Fat Croce's new basketball team didn't really win the NBA lottery on Sunday. But his Philadelphia 76ers will have the first pick in the next month's draft.

The Toronto Raptors actually won the 13-team lottery held at the offices of NBA entertainment, according to NBA counsel Joel Litvin. Under an agreement with the expansion franchises, Toronto and Vancouver — both were ineligible for the No. 1 pick.

The ping-pong balls for the first pick were assigned to Toronto, but the Raptors (21-61) were ineligible and automatically dropped to second. The 76ers, who had the second-worst record in the league at 18-64, then moved up to first when they were drawn for the second pick.

Croce, who headed a group that recently purchased the 76ers for at least \$125 million from Harold Katz, refused to speculate on the Sixers' pick in the June 26 draft. New general manager Brad Greenberg will make the choice — after running it by Croce.

The early frontrunners in this draft loaded with more than three dozen college underclassmen and high school players are Massachusetts forward Marcus Camby and points guards Allen Iverson of Georgetown and Stephon Marbury of Georgia Tech.

"We're looking for a winning position," said Croce, the 76ers' president and a former team physical therapist. "Any player we get is going to be an impact player for the 76ers."

Vancouver, which had the worst record at 15-67, won the third pick. Picks 4 through 13 then were assigned according to records during the regular season.

Milwaukee got the fourth pick and was followed by Minnesota, Dallas, the Los Angeles Clippers, New Jersey, Boston, Denver, Golden State, Cleveland and Charlotte.

Cleveland, which made the playoffs, got into the lottery having obtained Washington's pick in a trade for Mark Price.

Had Golden State gotten one of the top three picks, it would have been gone to Orlando under terms of the trade for Chris Webber.

Golden State was represented at the draft by forward Joe Smith, the No. 1 overall pick in last year's draft.

Croce, a former conditioning coach for the 76ers and flyers, amassed his personal wealth by building up a thriving physical therapy business he would later sell for \$40 million.

Croce invested some of his self-made millions in the megadeal in which Comcast Corp. and flyers owner Ed Snider took ownership of the Sixers, flyers and the city's two arenas earlier this year.

Germany bids farewell to Voeller

LEVERKUSEN, Germany (R) — German soccer bids farewell on Tuesday to its favorite footballing "auntie" — veteran World Cup star Rudi Voeller.

The 36-year-old 1986, 1990 and 1994 World Cup forward finishes his playing career in the most esteemed company in the German game — leading an international XI against the national team preparing for Euro 96.

Even when he earned his living abroad in Italy and France for many seasons, Voeller has remained one of the most popular players in Germany in the last decade.

His team mates nicknamed him "Auntie Katie" in the later part of his career because his curly locks were greying fast. Voeller turned to hair dye and quickly went blond in a bid to stay young.

Voeller was a forward who was never afraid of putting himself about in the penalty area in a bid to poach goals. The fans loved his industry. Throughout his career, they shouted "Rudi" every time he got the ball.

Even in his 30s, Voeller was as fast, powerful and quick-thinking as a hungry 19-year-old. Such was his form at the age of 34, that national team coach Berti Vogts called him out of international retirement to play at the 1994 World Cup.

"Rudi Voeller is a player of international importance," Germany's 1990-World Cup-winning coach Franz Beckenbauer said. "He is a perfect footballer and remarkable forward. A figure who leads from the front that any coach would want."

The statistics of Voeller's illustrious career speak for themselves.

He first showed his ability to score goals as the leading scorer in the second division in 1982. The following season he topped the Bundesliga's marksmen in Werder Bremen's colours.

He played in the toughest league in the world in Italy for Roma between 1987 and 1992 before moving to Marseille where he played in the team which clinched the European Cup in 1993.

His international career started back in 1982 against Northern Ireland in Belfast and ended 90 caps and 47 goals later in New York when Germany lost to Bulgaria in the quarter-finals of the 1994 World Cup finals.

Voeller's finest hour was the 1990 World Cup finals when he played brilliantly with Jurgen Klinsmann, surviving an ugly incident in the earlier rounds when he was sent off after a tussle with Dutchman Frank Rijkaard.

Although he says he can no longer stand the pace of regular league football, Voeller still showed some superb form this season for Bayer Leverkusen, helping the club to avoid relegation on a dramatic last day of the season on Saturday.

He is now expected to take on a role in the commercial side of the club.

Tuesday's game will include several of the 1990 World Cup squad and players from Voeller's former clubs.

The game marks the beginning of Germany's preparations for next month's European Championship finals in England. Afterwards the team leaves for a week's training camp in Northern Ireland.



Thomas Muster

Muster 'guesses' he is favourite for French Open

ROME (R) — Austrian Thomas Muster courted controversy on his way to his third Italian Open tennis title at the weekend but when the action was over and it was time to consider the future he stuck to the facts.

Asked whether any other player could beat him when he defends his French Open title on May 27 the world number two — who said at the start of the week that he never had confidence problems — admitted there were a few candidates.

But he remained his own favourite.

"There's one ahead of me and a couple behind me," he said, after beating unseeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek in Sunday's final of the Italian Open at the Foro Italico to become the first man in the open era to win three titles.

"There's no must for me to be the favourite in France," said Muster, who won 12 finals out of 14 last season.

"I am the favourite I guess because I played well but there's no guarantee to win. I am very happy to go there

and I'm expecting to do well but if I don't it doesn't matter. I have won Paris so it means less pressure than last year."

The victory in Rome took his match record on clay since the start of 1995 to a staggering 95 wins and three defeats although one of those losses came in Hamburg earlier this month.

That defeat was to Spaniard Alberto Costa and ended a 38-match winning streak in clay tournaments. He won in Mexico City, Estoril, Barcelona and Monte Carlo this year and says he feels physically and mentally stronger than in 1995.

Muster made waves in Italy when he criticised the leading three American players — number one Pete Sampras, number three Andre Agassi and number four Michael Chang — for being absent from the Italian Open for a variety of reasons.

Sampras, who has won seven Grand Slams but not the French open which he left in the first round last year,

pulled out of the Italian open after his coach Tim Gullikson died.

Chang, who won the French Open in 1989, dropped out of the lineup at the Foro Italico due to injury problems.

Muster, whose schedule in the week before the Grand Slam allows no let up with a clay court tournament in the Austrian town of St. Polten that could take him back to

the top of the rankings if he wins, said he had no worries.

"My goal is to make a certain number of points this year and stay in the top 10 and win as many matches as possible."

"It doesn't matter about overloading. I'm not looking at particular things in my season. I'd prefer to play next week as it's better than taking the week off and resting," he said.

Leading ATP rankings

1. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	4,558 points
2. Thomas Muster (Austria)	4,413
3. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	3,830
4. Michael Chang (U.S.)	3,627
5. Boris Becker (Germany)	3,490
6. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	2,882
7. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	2,566
8. Jim Courier (U.S.)	2,241
9. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)	2,216
10. Marcelo Rios (Chile)	2,072
11. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)	1,828
12. Armand Boetsch (France)	1,611
13. Alberto Costa (Spain)	1,592
14. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)	1,464
15. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)	1,445

Boginskaya strikes a blow against ageism

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Five years ago Bela Karolyi, the most famous coach in gymnastics, declared: "The era of Svetlana Boginskaya is over."

Boginskaya proved him wrong at the weekend, coming out of retirement to win a European silver medal at the age of 23. And one of the people she has to thank for her renaissance is, ironically, Karolyi himself.

The elegant Belarusian has been training with Karolyi, the man behind Nadia Comaneci's success, in a bid to reach her third Olympic Games and prove to the world that there is life after adolescence in gymnastics.

In a sport dominated by tiny teenagers, the 1.63-metre tall Boginskaya's projected return sparked some derogatory comments from her rivals.

"She cannot win medals any more," declared world silver medalist Alexandra Marinescu, 15, last month.

But Marinescu, confined to the junior event at the European Championships because of a glut of senior talent in the Romanian team, was among those watching in awe as Boginskaya did indeed win a medal in Saturday's all-around event.

Boginskaya, who first won Olympic success in 1988 when Marinescu, one of the favourites for Atlanta, was seven years old, says she has more energy and enthusiasm for gymnastics now, after two-and-a-half years out of the sport.

"You won't believe this but I have started to train more than I ever did," she said. "Even my coach says: 'Come on, Svetlana, you don't need to work so much.' There is nobody pushing me now. I do it because I love it."

Though Boginskaya failed to add any apparatus gold medals on Sunday, that was due above all to her routines.

While rivals such as world and new Euro-

pean overall champion Lilia Podkopaeva of Ukraine perform routines graded 10 for maximum difficulty, Boginskaya has yet to get back to that standard of complexity.

Her routines on all four apparatus in only her second major competition since coming out of retirement are graded at 9.90 points, a handicap from the outset.

"I will maybe try to add a little more difficulty to my routines," said Boginskaya, who was fourth on the beam here and is confident of making the team for Atlanta thanks to a shortage of candidates in Belarus.

Boginskaya, the second-oldest woman competing in Birmingham, retired after winning team gold with the Commonwealth of Independent States — the stop-gap team that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union — at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

The former world and European champion moved to the United States and took up coaching.

"I was crying, I was sleeping. I was enjoying life," she said. "But, you know what, it wasn't so much fun because I missed the challenge. I missed the competition."

She turned to Karolyi, the former Romanian who coached Comaneci when she won three gold medals at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and who is now based in the United States himself.

It was Karolyi who wrote her off when he was coaching American Kim Zmeskal to success in 1991.

"I want to say thank you to Bela Karolyi for what he has done," said Boginskaya, who is now going back to Belarus to train with the national squad for the Olympics.

In her first competition since her comeback, last year's world championships in Sabae, Japan, Boginskaya finished out of the medals and placed only 16th in the all-around final.

Atlanta aims for security with a smile

ATLANTA (R) — Wandering the streets of central Atlanta, unarmed security officers sporting military-style trousers, crisp white shirts and pith helmets present the happy, smiling face of Olympic Games security.

The so-called A-team, employed by downtown businesses anxious to ease public concern over petty crime, are a quaint addition to a vast security operation aimed at making Atlanta the safest place on earth during the Games.

Stung by reports that put Atlanta at or near the top of the U.S. crime stakes, the city is taking no chances when it hosts the world's biggest-ever sporting event between July 19 and August 4.

"At every Olympics since 1972, crime in the host city has actually gone down during the Games because of the increased security," said Bill Rathburn, director of security with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

"We are sure Atlanta will be the safest place on earth during the Olympics," he told Reuters.

Technology is playing a large role in the fight against crime and terrorism in Olympic Atlanta. Scanners will

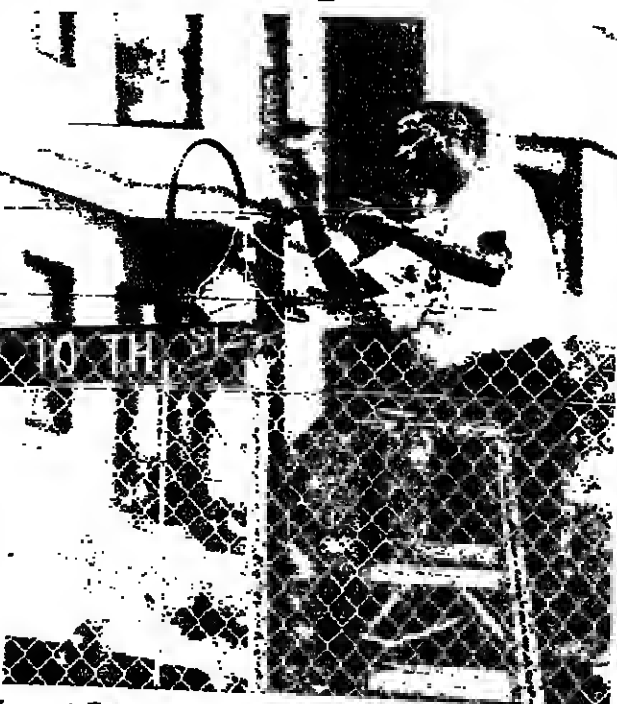
read hand and palmprints, matching the data with the other personal information contained in security cards to ensure the right pass does not fall into the wrong hands.

Microchips embedded in security tags are needed to activate certain lifts and open certain doors.

Crime and the Olympics are uneasy neighbours in Atlanta. Most venues, the athletes' village, the broadcasting and media centres and the park which will be the "heart and soul" of the Games lie close to high-crime areas.

Summerhill housing project adjoins the Olympic stadium, the massive brick and steel structure in stark contrast to the run-down homes and empty lots where murder, rape and other violent crimes are common. Olympic organisers plan to build a high chain-link fence to separate Summerhill from the fans.

Further north, Techwood is one of the oldest public housing projects in the United States, and it is a haven for crack houses and street crime. It also adjoins the Olympic village, and the swimming venue. Again, fences and large numbers of security officials are being seen as the answer.



Lamont Foster installs electrical wiring atop an electric fence in front of the Olympic village in Atlanta on May 14 to provide security for the 1996 Centennial Games in Atlanta. The games are in 66 days (Reuters photo)

In these grey areas of the city, police say the sheer weight of the security presence should deter even the most determined miscreants. "We have planned for all eventualities. We are going to have a safe city," said Atlanta police chief Beverly

Harvard. Although Atlanta has a poor record for both violent and non-violent crime, the worst nightmare for a host city is a terrorist attack striking at the core of the games and of the Olympic movement, such as the siege of the

athletes' village in Munich in 1972 in which 11 Israelis were killed.

At a recent exercise at Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport, the fight against terrorism was honed. The FBI coordinated by a writer on national and local security agencies, acting out a siege and hostage drama.

Dozens of organisations will be helping in the Olympic security operation, with tens of thousands of troops, police, secret service, FBI and narcotics officers included in the high profile force.

The 10,000-plus athletes from 197 nations are more than outnumbered by 14,000 soldiers, part of a \$50 million security contribution to the games from the defence department.

Some of these soldiers will be driving the buses transporting athletes across the city. While venues are well patrolled and guarded with high technology, the transport network between venues and the athletes' village is a security soft spot upon which officials must concentrate.

Security officials are deliberately vague about their plans but all echo the determination to keep the necessary precautions high-profile but unoppressive.

Alomar powers Orioles past Mariners

BALTIMORE (R) — Roberto Alomar's three-run homer in the sixth inning helped overcome a two-run deficit as the Baltimore Orioles edged the Seattle Mariners 8-7 on Sunday.

Rafael Palmeiro and Mark Smith added homers for the Orioles, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

In Cleveland, Julio Franco singled home two runs and scored on a single by Jim Thome in a four-run, third inning and Sandy Alomar homered to lead the Cleveland Indians to an 8-5 win over the Texas Rangers.

Albert Belle added a two-run single in a three-run fourth inning for Cleveland to extend his hitting streak to 20 games, the longest in the majors this season.

In New York, Chuck Finley threw a six-bitter and Chili Davis homered and drove in three runs as the California Angels halted their six-game losing streak with a 10-1 win over the New York Yankees.

Finley (5-2) allowed an unearned run and walked two while matching his season high with 10 strikeouts.

Scott Kamieniecki (1-1) had his second straight horrible outing, allowing six runs, six hits and two walks in just 1-2/3 innings.

In Boston, Mo Vaughn homered and drove in three runs and Aaron Sele allowed one run over seven innings for his first win in almost a month as the Boston Red Sox cruised to a 12-2 rout of the Oakland Athletics.

After Tim Lincecum's RBI single in the second put Boston on the board, Vaughn launched a two-run homer, his 16th, off Don Wengert (1-2) with one out in the third. Jose Canseco followed with a seventh to give the Red Sox a 4-0 lead.

In Kansas City, Ed Sprague had three hits, including a two-run homer in the seventh inning that rallied the Toronto Blue Jays to a 3-2 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Sprague was 3-for-3, drove



Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin lands on top of Atlanta Braves Ryan Klesko in the fourth inning as he turns a double play, May 19 in Atlanta. The Braves won 9-5 (Reuters photo)

In all three runs and his 12th homer helped the Blue Jays to their second straight win after a three-game losing streak.

In Minnesota, Steve Sparks allowed two runs in 7-2/3 innings and Mike Matheny's two-run single highlighted a three-run

second inning as the Milwaukee Brewers extended their winning streak to four games with a 4-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Sparks (3-4) posted his second consecutive win, giving up eight hits and one walk with one strikeout.

In Detroit, Robin Ventura hit his eighth career grand slam in the third inning and Darren Lewis added one in the ninth as the Chicago

White Sox completed a three-game demolition of the Detroit Tigers with a 14-3 pounding.

Smoltz stops Reds for ninth win

ATLANTA (R) — John Smoltz became the first nine-game winner in the majors and Fred McGriff hit his 300th career homer and drove in four runs as the Atlanta Braves completed a three-game sweep of the Cincinnati Reds with a 9-5 victory on Sunday.

The Braves defeated the Reds for the 11th straight time, including a four-game sweep in last year's national league championship series. Atlanta is 61-4 since April 26th.

Smoltz (9-1) pitched seven innings, allowing two hits and two runs as he won his ninth straight decision since a loss in his season debut on April 4th.

"I'm going after teams early on and our team has responded," Smoltz said. "It's a lot of fun."

In Chicago, Terry Pendleton's double in the top of the 11th inning scored Jeff Conine from first and gave the Florida Marlins an 8-7 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

In the 11th, Conine walked with one out and scored the winning run on Pendleton's long drive down the right field line off Turk Wendell (3-1). The Marlins have won 11 of their last 13 games.

Matt Mantei (1-0) worked the 10th inning to pick up his first major-league win and Robb Nen shut down the Cubs in the 11th for his 10th save.

In Colorado, Mark Thompson pitched a seven-inning shutout and Andres Galarraga drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies won their fourth straight game.

Thompson (3-3) walked one and struck out three for the Rockies.

Andy Benes (1-7) lost his seventh consecutive start, getting tagged for six runs and eight hits in six innings.

In Houston, Jeff Bagwell homered and drove in four runs, including a two-run single in the bottom of the ninth, as the Houston Astros rallied to defeat the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-3 and avoid a three-game sweep.

Todd Jones (4-1) earned the win despite surrendering a two-run double by Mark Johnson that capped a three-run ninth inning for Pittsburgh.

Bagwell hit his 13th homer in the fifth, a two-run shot to center field off Jason Christensen.

In Los Angeles, Dodger killer Jim Eisenreich's RBI single in the top of the ninth lifted the Philadelphia Phillies to a 5-4 victory over Los Angeles.

Kevin Stocker singled in

the ninth and was sacrificed to second by pinch-hitter Kevin Jordan. One out later, Eisenreich slapped a single through the hole in left off Scott Radinsky (0-1) to Plate Stocker for the game-winner.

Eisenreich, who went 4-for-5 with two Stolen Bases, is now 56-for-132 (.424) with six home runs and 30 RBI in his career against the Dodgers.

In San Diego, Luis Lopez's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning lifted the San Diego Padres to a 4-3 victory over the Montreal Expos in the rubber game of their three-game series.

The loss was the fourth in five games for the Expos. Tony Gwynn and Marc Newfield each had RBI sing-

les in the first inning and Jody Reed added a run-scoring double in the fifth to take the Padres to a 3-0 lead.

In San Francisco, Allen Watson and Rod Beck combined on a four-hitter and Mark Carreon delivered a sacrifice fly in the sixth, giving the San Francisco Giants a 1-0 victory over the New York Mets in the first game of a doubleheader.

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Valencia keep Spanish title race alive

MADRID (R) — Valencia kept the Spanish title race alive with one game left to play when they beat Espanyol 1-0 in a thrilling match on Sunday.

Leaders Atletico Madrid need only draw their last match, at home to Albacete, to take the title after earning a point at Tenerife on Saturday.

In Barcelona, a group of fans angered by the dismissal of coach Johan Cruyff tried to attack club vice-president Joan Gaspart before the game with Celta Vigo.

Cruyff's son Jordi was given a standing ovation as dozens of banners criticising the management were waved around the stadium.

Barcelona, who are out of the title race, came from 2-0 down to win an exciting game 3-2.

Valencia needed to win their game against Espanyol to keep their hopes alive but found the going tough against a determined side who have already guaranteed their UEFA Cup place for next season and had nothing to play for.

After 60 minutes of end-to-end play in which each side could have been awarded a penalty, Montenegro midfielder Predrag Mijatovic broke clear, only to see his shot saved by Espanyol keeper Toni Jimenez.

Jimenez saved again from Brazilian striker Viola but Carlos Arroyo was on hand to thread the ball through a maze of Espanyol players.

Espanyol attacked strongly towards the end and had a goal disallowed after Mauricio Pochettino pushed Valencia keeper Andoni Zubizarreta.

In the final minute the entire Espanyol side crowded the Valencia box and their goalkeeper Jimenez came within a whisker of connecting to score following a corner.

Other games were no less spectacular.

Real Madrid veteran Michel Gonzalez said goodbye to the Santiago Bernabeu crowd with two goals and left the field in tears after helping his side maintain their UEFA Cup hopes with a 4-0 win over Merida, who are relegated alongside Salamanca.

7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup Faisali in final

By Aleco Banosyan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali of Jordan Monday scored an unforgettable 1-0 win over Al Riyadh of Saudi Arabia in the semifinal round of the 7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup which concludes here Wednesday.

Subhi Suleiman's sole goal in the 20th minute of the match was enough to lift his team to the final in which they will face Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh. The Moroccan team had scored a 2-1 win over Algeria's Olympic Al Mdyah in the earlier semifinal.

Al Faisali's qualification to the final made Jordanian soccer history as they became the first of the Kingdom's teams to play in the final of this elite soccer tournament.

The referee's final whistle started celebrations

for over 20,000 fans at Amman International Stadium. Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, Prince Firas Bin Ra'ad and Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh attended the match.

Earlier in the evening Al Mdyah, a second division team in Algeria, were the first to score and ended the first half 1-0. While Al Mdyah seemed able to maintain their lead, Khreibkeh stunned their opponents when they netted the equalising goal in the 25th minute of the second half. Team captain Abdullah Hadoumi then added the winning goal two

minutes later from a defensive error by an Algerian defender.

Al Faisali will now meet Khreibkeh in the final Wednesday. Their first round encounter had ended in a 1-1 draw.

The other Jordanian team in the championship, hosts Al Wihdat, were knocked out of the first round after losing all their matches and ending up last in the group.

While Al Wihdat were playing the Cup Winner's Cup for the first time, Al Faisali's participation set a championship record with their fourth appearance in the event. (Al Ramtha were the first to represent Jordan in 1993).

Jordanian results in the past four Cup Winners' Cup participations included two draws and 11 defeats in total.

Participating teams have never before won the title or even runner up position. Past champions, notably teams from Egypt and Tunisia, are missing the competition especially the championship record holders, Olympic Badawi of Morocco, who won the title a record three consecutive times.

Monaco Grand Prix

Ligier does it again in the rain

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Victories are few and far between for the French Ligier team.

But maybe they have figured out the strategy — find a wet race and have the race stopped after the two-hour time limit.

Olivier Panis gave Ligier its first victory in 15 years as he captured the Monaco Grand Prix on a wet track with the race stopped after two hours.

The last time the Ligier team won a race, Jacques Laffite took the Canadian Grand Prix in September, 1981, in a race stopped in the rain after 53 laps because of the two-hour time limit.

The French team is one of the veterans of the Formula One circuit. It is one of just seven teams that have contested more than 300 Grand Prix races.

Yet it has just nine victories. Laffite had six of them between 1977 and 1981.

He is now technical advisor for the Ligier team and

shared in Panis's victory at Monaco and remembered how Ligier just missed when he was driving, including a second in 1980 at Monaco.

"It is a fabulous revenge," Laffite said. "The team merited this we needed it. It's a great victory."

"I'm delighted to win for Ligier," Panis said. "That's what I am here for and that's what they wanted."

Panis took advantage of the wet conditions that eliminated other top drivers.

The race ended after 75 laps of a scheduled 78 with just three cars running at the end, none of the top favorites were there. Pole winner and two-time

defending champion Michael Schumacher crashed on the first lap, less than 50 seconds after the start.

Damon Hill, winner of four of the first five races this season, also went out of the race when his Williams-Renault blew an engine. Jean Alesi dropped out with tire troubles while also seemingly on the way to victory.

That left the way for the first Formula One victory for Panis.

"It's my first win in 2 1/2 years since I was in Formula 3000," Panis said. "And it was starting to tickle me a little."

Chab M. Shukair

Attorney

Announces the opening of his law office at Sweifeh, Tel.: 858805 (Office), 866174 (Residence); Fax 681502 P.O. Box 851607, Amman 11185 Jordan

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Serb hardliners tighten grip on power, refuse to drop Karadzic as leader

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb hardliners Monday strengthened their grip in Bosnia's Serb entity, denying that Serb leader Radovan Karadzic will resign and making life hard for the top civilian official, Carl Bildt, seeking his ouster.

Biljana Plavsic, a Serb hardliner, on a visit to "clean up" opposition in the northern town of Banja Luka, told reporters that weekend speculation that Mr. Karadzic would resign was "unfounded."

Ms. Plavsic, dubbed the iron lady of the Serbs, is an extreme nationalist and long-time Karadzic loyalist appointed Saturday by the Serb leader to take over responsibility for dealings with the international community.

Serb deputies late Friday ousted a moderate as Serb "prime minister" and installed a hardline apparition, Gojko Kljickovic in his place. Mr. Bildt's office said in Sarajevo that a cabal of Serb leaders close to Mr. Karadzic had made "verbal promises" to the civilian official Saturday that the Serb leader would stand aside but had failed so far to provide a discussed written document confirming that.

Mr. Bildt's chief spokesman Colum Murphy said the Serb leader, even if hardliners were appointed to continue his work, would be a significant impediment.

Quoting a quote from Napoleon Bonaparte, he said, "It's not the men, it's the man" that matters in the Bosnian Serb entity.

Mr. Karadzic's "charisma" and grip on affairs make it

vital to remove him from the political scene, if progress with the moderate trends in Serb politics is to be made," Mr. Murphy told a briefing.

Mr. Bildt, who was in Athens Monday to meet NATO chiefs, has been engaged in an effort for the past several weeks to dislodge Mr. Karadzic who is indicted for war crimes and risks blocking international efforts to implement the peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Bildt, a former Swedish premier, was expected later Monday to fly to Belgrade for meetings with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who had made "certain commitments" to pressure Mr. Karadzic into leaving the scene, Bildt's spokesman said.

The spokesman was not willing to identify the promises. In Banja Luka, however, authorities showed the first signs of a new hardline trend likely to develop in the town, shutting down Radio Big, the only independent radio station operating on Serb territory, for four hours.

Banja Luka was until last week seen as the centre of a possible rebellion by "moderates" against Mr. Karadzic. Ms. Plavsic, who was in Banja Luka Monday, told reporters she was determined to "clean up" the opposition in the town, reporters said.

Ms. Plavsic also said "there is no question" of Mr. Karadzic resigning and confirmed that Serb leaders planned a referendum of support for Mr. Karadzic and Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic, both of whom have been indicted on geno-

cide charges by a U.N. tribunal based in the Hague. Mr. Murphy acknowledged Mr. Karadzic was seeking to retain influence in Bosnia.

In Athens, Mr. Bildt told NATO leaders Monday it was essential that Mr. Karadzic should appear before the U.N. war crimes tribunal in the Hague to answer charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

The Serbs should "decide to apply or not, the peace treaty," signed in December to end Bosnia's almost four-year war, Mr. Bildt said.

Seeking the ouster of Mr. Karadzic, Bildt is making the big throw in the Balkan power game. Mr. Karadzic, 51, a former psychiatrist — specially, depression — and failed poet, has made mincemeat of previous international negotiations since launching Bosnia-Herzegovina into a separatist war in April 1992.

But beyond the threat of sanctions and pressure from Mr. Milosevic, Mr. Bildt has few cards to play against Mr. Karadzic.

NATO, which commands 60,000 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has refused to go after Mr. Karadzic, who still lives and spends most of his time in his "capital" Pale, outside Sarajevo, because Western politicians are reluctant to consider the option.

And without the threat of arrest, Mr. Karadzic appears to think he is safe, sources in Pale have told AFP.

Sanctions — a mega-tonne bomb in Mr. Bildt's paucity arsenal — are nonetheless there to be called on.

Only political objections can stop them.



HURRICANE HITS POLAND: A Polish farmer, Zbigniew Murawski, 42, removes debris from his car on Monday after a 30-minute hurricane passed over his village of Drewnowo, eastern Poland, destroying most houses. The hurricane badly damaged or destroyed over 300 trees and 20 villages in the area (Reuters photo)

No magic solution to water shortage problem — Muasher

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is no magic solution to the water shortage in the country and even after Jordan gets in full its share of water as stipulated in the peace treaty with Israel, the Kingdom would still have to seek additional means to completely address the problem, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

The minister also said that the growing demand as a result of population growth as well as the return home of more than 300,000 Jordanian expatriates following the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 had further exacerbated the water problem.

Expectations aside, the main problem facing the water authorities' bid to ensure that available water is evenly distributed is the massive wastage through leaks in the pipeline network, Dr. Muasher added.

Dr. Muasher, in a regular weekly briefing for the press, was largely addressing mounting public complaints about water shortage in the

country. The complaints have been particularly bitter, given that the public was expecting the problem to be alleviated following the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in October 1994.

Under the peace treaty, Israel undertook to ensure that Jordan would get an additional quantity of 215 million cubic metres of water every year through new dams, diversions, structures, pipelines and a desalination/purification plant.

"Even if Jordan were to get the full quantity of additional water as stipulated in the peace treaty, we would still have to look for other means to address the water shortage," said Dr. Muasher.

Dr. Muasher said Jordan was now receiving between 45 and 50 million cubic metres of water from across the border with Israel through a newly built pipeline, but that any additional quantity would have to wait until new dams and the desalination plant were built.

"We are supposed to get an additional 100 million cubic metres through a series of dams to be built on the

Jordan and Yarmouk rivers," Dr. Muasher said. "We are still looking for financing to build these dams, mainly two major dams which are expected to cost between \$400 million and \$500 million," he said.

"We are not going to get any additional water until these dams are built," he stressed, adding that Jordan and Israel were already in touch with Germany and other countries for financing the dam projects.

Feasibility studies — financed by the European Union — on the water projects called for in the peace treaty are expected to be completed soon. In principle, Germany has promised to offer partial financing for the projects along with its partners in the European Union after the studies establish the feasibility of the proposals.

Dr. Muasher noted that the Oct. 26, 1994 peace treaty also stipulated that Israel would start discussions with Jordan on ways to give the Kingdom an additional 50 million cubic metres of water (over and above the 50 million pumped through the

pipeline and the 100 million expected to come from the dams) one year after the treaty was signed.

These consultations are "already taking place," said Dr. Muasher.

On the internal front, he said, about 55 per cent of potable water pumped into the distribution networks was being wasted as a result of leaks and this was a major problem in ensuring an even distribution of the available water.

"Our water pipelines are old and most of them are worn out, leading to severe leakages," he said. "The government has been allocating funds for repairing the network on a sector-by-sector basis every year, but it would need hundreds of millions of dollars to fully resolve the problem. Jordan does not have that kind of money available."

"We are fully aware of the water problems faced by the citizens," said Dr. Muasher, adding that his own home had not got water from the central distribution system for over two weeks.

UAE's rulers approve amending constitution

ABU DHABI (R) — The rulers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) seven states on Monday approved a plan to amend the federation's constitution, making it permanent and naming Abu Dhabi city as the UAE's official capital, officials said.

The country's Federal Supreme Council (FSC), made up of the rulers of the seven emirates, agreed on the two steps which must be ratified by the Federal National Council (FNC), a 40-member consultative body of appointed representatives, officials said.

Oil-rich UAE, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the regional Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance, has been governed by a provisional constitution since the federation was formed in 1971.

The current constitution states that Abu Dhabi City is the temporary capital while federal funds were set aside every year for a proposed capital that would have been built at Karama, on the border between the emirates of Abu Dhabi, richest of the seven states, and Dubai, the country's commercial centre.

"This is a very important step for the country, cementing the federation and taking it into a new era," said a Western diplomat who has been closely watching negotiations in recent weeks between the seven states ahead of the country's 25th anniversary celebrations in December.

"These two changes are very important... and the door for other amendments to the constitution have not been closed," said one UAE official.

Key provisions of Iraq-U.N. oil deal

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Following are the main provisions of the oil-for-food agreement reached between the United Nations and Iraq as set by Resolution 986 adopted by the U.N. Security Council in April 1995:

— Iraq is allowed to export up to \$2 billion worth of oil for an initial six-month period to buy food and medicine which must be equitably distributed among the Iraqi people.

The system is renewable but U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali must report back to the Security Council after the first three months, and again three months later, on whether Iraq has ensured the equitable distribution of the supplies.

His reports are to be based on information from U.N. observers sent into the field and from the Iraqi government. According to U.N. officials, about 100-200 monitors would be required to supervise distribution at entry points and warehouses in Iraq.

International control of the oil sales is ensured by the opening of an escrow account.

But out of the \$1 billion per quarter from the oil sales, \$750 million goes to the U.N. Sanctions Committee set up to monitor claims for "damages" of natural resources to foreign

governments, nationals or corporations" arising from the August 1990, invasion of Kuwait.

Out of the remaining \$700 million, U.N. inspection agents and accountants must be paid, as well as the operating costs of the U.N. Special Commission which verifies Iraqi disarmament in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

A total \$130-\$150 million per quarter are to be set aside from the \$700 million for the Kurds of northern Iraq.

According to U.N. calculations, as a result the three million-strong Kurdish population in northern Iraq stand to get 50 cents per person per day as a result of the agreement, and the 17 million mainly Shiite population in the south will get 32 cents per person per day.

— The U.N. Sanctions Committee for Iraq must approve each proposed purchase of Iraqi oil and oil products, including the price, as well as the export route and other directly-related financial issues.

The committee is also responsible for monitoring the oil exports and ensuring that the larger share of the Iraqi exports, some 700,000 barrels per day at current prices, passes through the twin Turkish pipeline. The rest can be exported via Iraq's Mina al Bakr Gulf outlet.

Britain expels 3 Sudanese

LONDON (R) — Britain ordered the expulsion of three Sudanese diplomats on Monday in line with U.N. sanctions against Khartoum for allegedly backing international guerrilla groups.

The Foreign Office said it had summoned Sudan's ambassador to inform him of the decision and had given the three diplomats, including a senior envoy, one month to leave Britain.

Sudan has 15 diplomats in Britain and those remaining will have to give prior notice of any trips outside London. No one at the Sudanese embassy in London could be reached for comment.

The U.N. Security Council voted on April 26 to impose diplomatic and travel sanctions on Sudan because of concern over Sudan's complicity with what it called acts of terrorism.

In particular the United Nations demanded that Sudan extradite to Ethiopia three people suspected of an attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during visit to Addis Ababa last year.

Mr. Mubarak escaped unhurt when suspected extremists opened fire shortly after he arrived in the Ethiopian capital last June for a summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity.

The mandatory resolution said sanctions would start to bite on May 10 and warned of further possible steps if Sudan fails to comply within two months.

Britain's move followed the expulsion by Washington on May 10 of one of Sudan's six diplomats accredited to the United States. Sudan is on the U.S. list of countries deemed to sponsor terrorism.

Foreign Office officials said other Western countries were expected to follow the U.S. and British lead.

Sudan says it has been unable to find any of those suspected of trying to kill Mr. Mubarak, all Egyptian nationals, and denies any involvement in terrorism.

As part of the sanctions, the Foreign Office said it would also refuse to grant visas to members and officials of the Sudanese government and members of its armed forces.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New life sentence slapped against Geagea

BEIRUT (R) — A Beirut court on Monday sentenced former Christian warlord Samir Geagea to death, commuted to life in jail, for ordering the killing of a former member of his Lebanese forces militia. The court found him guilty of ordering the murder of Dr. Elias Al Zayek who was shot dead near his house in 1990. The sentence against Mr. Geagea, who is serving a life sentence for a previous murder conviction, was commuted to a life term.

Soldier killed in suspected ETA bomb blast

CORDOBA (AP) — A bomb exploded near a bus stop used by military personnel on Monday, killing an army sergeant and injuring five other people. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion, but similar attacks have been carried out by the Basque separatist group ETA. The blast occurred shortly before 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) on the outskirts of Cordoba, 300 kilometres southwest of Madrid. A police spokesman said the bomb was hidden in a public trash bin near a bus stop that serves a nearby army base. Three of the five injured were said to be in serious condition. ETA has killed more than 760 people, mostly security force members, since it began fighting for the independence of northern Spain's three Basque provinces in 1968. The group has killed three people this year. The last was a police officer who died in a car bombing March 4 in the Basque town of Iruin.

Sudan rebels say they killed 6 soldiers

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese rebels said on Monday they killed six government soldiers and wounded two in a raid near the northeastern Sudanese town of Kassala. The Sudan Alliance Forces (SAF) also vowed in a statement to continue its attacks on the government of Lieutenant-Colonel Omar Hassan Al Bashir and called upon the Sudanese people to join in their struggle. "On Sunday morning, the brigade of the martyr Abdul Moneim Kameer attacked government troops south of the Gash River delta," the statement said. "This operation is an escalation of the attacks by the SAF which will not stop until this totalitarian regime is defeated... we call upon the Sudanese people to organise their ranks and take up armed struggle against the regime," it added. The SAF, a splinter group of former Sudanese army troops who escaped from Sudan following the 1989 military coup that brought Gen. Bashir to power, killed 15 government soldiers last month in their first major attack against the state.

Somali captors free 3 aid workers

HARGEISA, Somalia (R) — Three aid workers kidnapped 10 days ago in the self-declared republic of Somaliland have been released by their captors and flown to neighbouring Djibouti, a faction leader said on Monday. The three — a German, a Briton and a Somali — were all working for the German aid agency GTZ. Aid officials said the three were seized by armed men on May 9 but quickly rescued by villagers in Hared, 40 kilometres east of Erigabo, the provincial capital of Sanaag region.

S. Arabia prepares to punish bombers

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, preparing to punish four confessed bombers, dismissed threats against U.S. interests in the kingdom if they were harmed.

Defence Minister Prince Sultan, second in line for King Fahd's throne after Crown Prince Abdullah, said Saudi Arabia did not take threats received by the U.S. embassy in Riyadh seriously.

The U.S. State Department said last week its Riyadh embassy received an anonymous telephone call threatening retaliation against American interests if the four Saudis who confessed on television last month were punished.

The four said they were responsible for the car bombing of a U.S.-run National Guard training centre in the Saudi capital. Five Americans and two Indians were killed and about 60 others

wounded in the Nov. 13 blast.

They admitted they were influenced by Islamic groups abroad, including Mohammad Al Masari, a Saudi who is waging a propaganda campaign against the Saudi royal family from exile in London.

Mr. Masari, who accuses the Saudi royal family of corruption and urges a peaceful transition to stricter Islamic rule, has denied influencing the four bombers.

"We will apply God's judgment against those criminals and will not hesitate in any way to apply Islamic Sharia law against them," Prince Sultan told a news conference on Sunday.

Analysts took his remarks to mean the four would be beheaded by the sword, the customary punishment for

(Continued on page 3)

No alternative to current coalition, Yilmaz asserts

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said on Monday that his coalition, hit by graft charges and a challenge to its legal status, should struggle on because the alternative was an Islamist presence in government.

"When measuring the life of this government you must remember that there is no alternative," Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying in the northern town of Samsun.

The main opposition Islamists have been waiting in the wings for Mr. Yilmaz's two-month-old minority government to collapse in infighting over corruption allegations against coalition

COLUMN 8

47 inmates tunnel out of Brazil prison

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Forty seven inmates, over half the prisoners in a Sao Paulo police precinct, tunneled their way to freedom Sunday while their wardens watched TV in a room next door, a police officer said. Police Chief Alberto Alves Moreira said the tunnel, about three metres long, was dug over the course of the evening as the earth underneath the precinct is very soft and allowed the inmates to make fast progress. He said 12 of the prisoners, most of them common thieves, had already been recaptured. Last week 53 prisoners built a 100 metre tunnel and escaped from Brazil's largest penitentiary.

Unwell Jimmy Stewart turns 88

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Jimmy Stewart turns 88 Monday but feels less than wonderful since hitting his head in a fall in December, according to daily Variety columnist Archard. "I still can't say that I'm feeling fine," Mr. Archard's column in the paper's Monday edition quoted Stewart as saying. Stewart, who starred in such memorable films as It's a Wonderful Life and The Philadelphia Story, spent several days in hospital after falling and injuring his head.

Bardot denies anti-Muslim racism

PARIS (R) — Aimal rights activist Brigitte Bardot denied she was racially prejudiced against Muslims and said she would find them "the world's most wonderful people" if they stopped ritual slaughter of sheep. Former film star Bardot, who has long campaigned against ritual slaughter by North African immigrants for the Eid Al Adha religious feast, drew wide spread condemnation when she spoke last month of a "Muslim...invasion...and overflow (into France)."

Italian kids win freedom from parental lapses

ROME (R) — Italian parents can no longer hit their children even if they think a smack is of educational value, the High Court said. The court decided in favour of a girl who is 1990, at the age of 10, complained to the police that her father beat her. The man said he slapped his daughter to teach her right from wrong but Italy's highest court ruled against him. It said to hit a child was "culturally anachronistic and judicially insupportable...even if the parents who do this sincerely believe they are doing it for educational reasons."

Slovenian bear in bid to repopulate Pyrenees

TOULOUSE, France (R) — A 104-kilogramme Slovenian female bear was released in the Pyrenees Mountains in an effort to re-populate a once-thriving bear population now numbering only about half a dozen animals. Giva (Liberty) had been tracked down and captured in her native Slovenian forest some 20 hours earlier after being shot with a hypodermic dart to put her to sleep for the journey to France by road, officials said. The bear stood up on her hind paws, grunted and took a swipe, which missed, at an imprudently placed television cameraman when the doors to her specially designed lorry were opened in a forest above Melles Village in the Hautes-Pyrenees Department.